

Senate Resolution 763

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Lorenzo "Lo" Jelks; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, for decades, Lorenzo "Lo" Jelks served as a distinguished radio personality and
3 interdisciplinary champion of African American music and cultural affairs before becoming
4 the first African American television news broadcaster in Atlanta; and

5 WHEREAS, June is African American Music Appreciation Month, created by President
6 Jimmy Carter in 1979, to foster an appreciation for the global uniqueness of Black secular
7 music (jazz, blues, pop, and rhythm & blues) and spiritual music (Gospel); and

8 WHEREAS, Black radio personalities, jewels of betterment, since 1929 have brought forth
9 Scripture-based spirituals that convey God's word in psalms and hymns, expressing faith and
10 hope, and secular radio personalities have brought forth world-relevant music on street life,
11 romance, and social consciousness; and

12 WHEREAS, during the pioneering years of Black radio, Black deejays played the music of
13 soul singers, songwriters, and musicians whose talents were marginalized or excluded by the
14 indifference of mainstream radio and who otherwise had no measure of opportunity to
15 broadly display their distinctive gifts; and

S. R. 763

- 1 -

16 WHEREAS, quick-witted, entertaining, informative, and humorous, these magnanimous
17 radio personalities on a daily basis affected African Americans from coast to coast, reaching
18 audiences that included the literate and illiterate; the churchd and unchurchd; the white
19 collared and blue collared; the well-employed, underemployed, and unemployed; the young
20 and old; from all walks of life; and

21 WHEREAS, these preeminent women and men of radio broadcasting, part and parcel of their
22 listening audiences, served as social engineers on the front line of progress, promoting causes
23 such as civil rights, social and personal responsibility, voting registration, economic
24 development, academic achievement, and collective awareness, and

25 WHEREAS, pioneering Black deejays went beyond the call of duty as voices for the
26 voiceless; they went beyond the realm of music, bringing forth news and views when Black
27 news and views did not exist elsewhere and offering perspectives that enhanced the dreams,
28 hopes, and well-being of listening audiences throughout Georgia and this country.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 and the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus recognize and commend Lorenzo "Lo" Jelks and
31 join WCEG Network Incorporated in saluting Black radio personalities in recognition of their
32 global and cultural impact and call upon all Georgians to study, reflect on, and celebrate
33 African American music.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
35 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
36 Lorenzo "Lo" Jelks.