

Senate Resolution 874

By: Senators Halpern of the 39th, Dixon of the 45th, Payne of the 54th, McLaurin of the 14th and Howard of the 35th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Rita Celeste Johnson; and for other purposes.

- 2 WHEREAS, Rita Celeste Johnson, a native of Bardstown, Kentucky, graduated from
3 Bardstown High School in 1987 and was later inducted into the Bardstown High School
4 Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005 in recognition of her athletic excellence; and

- 5 WHEREAS, she earned a four-year athletic scholarship to Bellarmine University in
6 Louisville, Kentucky, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Communication in 1992; and

- 7 WHEREAS, she began her professional career with State Farm Insurance in 1992 as an Auto
8 Claims Field Adjustor, serving for seven years before relocating to Fort Lauderdale, Florida,
9 to join the State Farm Catastrophe Services Team, where she served in a managerial capacity
10 for approximately three years; and

- 11 WHEREAS, after witnessing firsthand the devastating impact of catastrophic events on
12 families and communities, she chose to further serve others as an insurance agent and small
13 business owner, ultimately establishing her business in Griffin, Georgia; and

14 WHEREAS, in January 2013, she was elected to the Spaulding County Board of
15 Commissioners representing District 3, where she demonstrated a passion for excellence,
16 sustainability, innovation, customer service, and responsible public stewardship; and

17 WHEREAS, throughout her public service, Commissioner Johnson worked to strengthen
18 county governance, support community growth, and advocate for policies that enhanced the
19 quality of life for residents of Spaulding County; and

20 WHEREAS, she has remained actively engaged in civic and community leadership, serving
21 on the Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce Executive Board of Directors, the Griffin
22 Downtown Main Street Executive Board of Directors, as President of the American Business
23 Women's Association Griffin-Spalding County Iris Chapter, and as a member of Saint John's
24 Lutheran Church in Spaulding County; and

25 WHEREAS, Rita Celeste Johnson's career reflects a lifetime of leadership, resilience,
26 service, and dedication to both public and private sectors, leaving a lasting impact on Griffin
27 and Spaulding County.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 recognize and commend Rita Celeste Johnson for her distinguished service as a former
30 Spaulding County Commissioner and for her continued leadership as a businesswoman and
31 community advocate.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Rita Celeste
34 Johnson.