

Senate Resolution 879

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Wicks of the 34th, James of the 28th, Mangham of the 55th, Jackson of the 41st and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and legacy of David Hayward and recognizing his enduring contributions
2 to the advancement and preservation of LGBTQ+ history and rights in the State of Georgia;
3 and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the members of this body join family, friends, and communities throughout
5 Georgia in mourning the passing of David "Dave" Hayward at the age of 76, an activist,
6 historian, and witness to much of Atlanta's early LGBTQ+ rights movement; and

7 WHEREAS, born in New Hampshire, Mr. Hayward made Atlanta his home in 1971, arriving
8 during the nascent stage of the city's modern gay rights movement and dedicating more than
9 five decades to the pursuit of equality, justice, and historical preservation; and

10 WHEREAS, he was an early member of the Georgia Gay Liberation Front and a co-founder
11 of the Atlanta chapter of ACT UP, the political advocacy organization formed in the late
12 1980s to demand action to end the AIDS pandemic and to confront injustice with courage
13 and urgency; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Hayward participated in Atlanta's first sanctioned Pride march in 1972 and
15 remained a visible and vocal presence at protests, commemorations, and community events,

16 steadfast in his belief that equality is achieved not only through policy but through
17 remembrance and collective action; and

18 WHEREAS, as co-founder of Touching Up Our Roots, he helped create an innovative
19 LGBTQ+ story project and self-guided audio tour documenting significant sites, ensuring
20 that the people, places, and movements that shaped the city's LGBTQ+ community would
21 not be lost to time; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Hayward understood the profound responsibility of being a witness to
23 history, especially to the devastating impact of the AIDS epidemic, once stating that while
24 we cannot bring loved ones back, we can "call them forth in the present moment to honor and
25 remember them as you educate the future"; and

26 WHEREAS, through his activism, scholarship, and public witness, David Hayward
27 strengthened the moral fabric of the State of Georgia and enriched the history of the City of
28 Atlanta, leaving an indelible mark on generations to come.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 honor the life and legacy of David Hayward and recognize his extraordinary contributions
31 to the advancement of civil rights, the preservation of LGBTQ+ history, and the betterment
32 of the State of Georgia.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of
35 David Hayward.