

Senate Resolution 1039

By: Senator Mallow of the 2nd

### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 23rd Annual Juneteenth Celebration by the Daughters of Mary Magdalene  
2 and commending Melonie Sims; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans and  
4 emphasizes cultural pride through events inspired by recollections of our ancestors' and  
5 grandparents' struggles against slavery and segregation, and their fight for freedom, dignity,  
6 justice, and equality for generations to come; and

7 WHEREAS, the Daughters of Mary Magdalene is a nonprofit community organization that  
8 serves areas lacking economic, social, and cultural resources by offering educational  
9 materials, mentoring, and oral history griots to motivate and help uplift people to reach their  
10 full potential; and

11 WHEREAS, the theme for this year's Juneteenth celebration is, "Rebuild, Reconstruct and  
12 Re-Educate!"; and

13 WHEREAS, one of the highlights of the Juneteenth celebration is the Honorees Program,  
14 which recognizes ordinary people who exemplify extraordinary character and dedicate their

15 life's work to helping and benefitting children, young adults, and others throughout the  
16 community; and

17 WHEREAS, Melonie Sims is being recognized as a 2026 Juneteenth Celebration Honoree;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Melonie is a Savannah native. She attended the public school system and is  
20 1985 graduate of Savannah High School. She later moved to Long Island, New York and  
21 earned certification as a nurses aid; and

22 WHEREAS, Melonie finds her calling to be in service to her church and community,  
23 originally as a member of St. John Divine Baptist Church where her daughter was baptized  
24 and she served as the Youth Choir leader; and

25 WHEREAS, currently Melonie is a member of Resurrection Pentecostal Temple where she  
26 sings in the choir, works with the kitchen ministry, serves as program announcer, presenter  
27 and reporter, and she also accompanies the Temple's Prophetess leader as she ministers to  
28 others throughout the city; and

29 WHEREAS, Melonie considers the best jobs she's ever had to be mother to her daughter  
30 Nefra Payne, and grandmother to Elijah Payne; and

31 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper to recognize the Daughters of Mary  
32 Magdalene for presenting the longest-serving Juneteenth celebration in Savannah, of more  
33 than 23 years, and commend Melonie Sims as a 2026 Juneteenth Celebration Honoree.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
35 recognize and commend the Daughters of Mary Magdalene and Melonie Sims.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
37 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Daughters of  
38 Mary Magdalene and Melonie Sims.