

Senate Resolution 807

By: Senators Wicks of the 34th and Anderson of the 43rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Denise Olivia Jones; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Denise Olivia Jones is a native of historic Selma, Alabama, the internationally
3 revered birthplace of the modern Civil Rights Movement, whose sacred legacy of
4 bridge-building, nonviolence, and moral courage profoundly shaped her lifelong commitment
5 to justice, healing, equity, and harmonious human relationships; and

6 WHEREAS, she pursued higher education at Alabama State University, a historically Black
7 college and university, earning a Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems and
8 Business Administration, and later continued her academic advancement by earning a Master
9 of Public Administration from Troy State University (European Region), grounding her
10 creative, cultural, and humanitarian work in disciplined leadership, public service, and
11 organizational strategy; and

12 WHEREAS, D. Olivia Jones honorably served the United States as a commissioned officer
13 in the United States Air Force, rising to the rank of Captain, exemplifying integrity,
14 discipline, and excellence throughout her military career; and

15 WHEREAS, during her military service, she held influential cultural and community
16 leadership positions, including serving as President of the Society for Black Awareness and
17 Cultural Achievement at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, and as Co-Chairperson of the
18 annual Black History Month Celebrations at Royal Air Force in Lakenheath, United
19 Kingdom, where she spearheaded programs honoring Black culture, heritage, history, and
20 global contributions across two international military communities; and

21 WHEREAS, as a United States Air Force veteran, she has openly confronted the long-term
22 impacts of military service and trauma, including military sexual trauma, and has
23 transformed personal pain into purposeful advocacy, empowering veterans and survivors to
24 move from caged suffering toward emotional liberation, holistic wellness, and renewed life
25 purpose; and

26 WHEREAS, she has contributed her voice, testimony, and leadership to numerous national
27 and community organizations, including as a featured guest of "The Sandy Rodgers Show,"
28 aired on Roku/Black on Demand streaming channel; the Armed Services Arts Partnership;
29 Warrior Music Foundation; The Alchemy Sky Foundation; and Women Veteran Social
30 Justice, where she served as an Ambassador; and

31 WHEREAS, additionally, she has participated in panels addressing veterans' wellness,
32 trauma recovery, and mental health, strengthening pathways to healing for countless
33 individuals; and

34 WHEREAS, she is an accomplished poet, writer, dancer, storyteller, and performing artist,
35 whose lived experiences of interpersonal abuse, systemic harm, and unaddressed trauma
36 inform her writings, performances, and public discourse, amplifying the urgent need for
37 compassionate, trauma-informed, community-based healing; and

38 WHEREAS, her own healing journey profoundly shapes her artistic practice, including her
39 contributions to The Womb Song Project, which explores emotional, ancestral, and cultural
40 "womb histories" as pathways toward generational trauma healing, particularly within Black
41 communities and among women impacted by historical and contemporary violence; and

42 WHEREAS, her literary and published works, including her co-authored book *Strength in*
43 *Service* and her Library of Congress-registered poem "Let Us Build Bridges" – written for
44 the 50th Anniversary of the Selma, Alabama, Bloody Sunday Remembrance and published
45 in the 2021 *Bridge Crossing Jubilee Newspaper* – serve as vessels for acknowledging and
46 healing historical traumas and carving pathways to a world of love and peace; and

47 WHEREAS, she is a seasoned international traveler and global citizen, having journeyed
48 across more than 20 countries, deepening her understanding of humanity's shared destiny and
49 reinforcing her commitment to cultivating a global culture rooted in compassion, unity,
50 justice, freedom, and peaceful coexistence; and

51 WHEREAS, the life's work of D. Olivia Jones reflects her profound belief that healing is not
52 only possible but essential for the future of humanity and that love, when practiced
53 intentionally, is a revolutionary force capable of transforming lives, communities, and entire
54 generations.

55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
56 recognize and commend Denise Olivia Jones for her distinguished military service and her
57 lifelong commitment to justice, healing, equity, and global community building.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
59 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Denise Olivia
60 Jones.