

Senate Resolution 904

By: Senators Jones of the 10th, Rahman of the 5th, Harbison of the 15th, Merritt of the 9th, Mangham of the 55th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring The Masters of Education: Hidden Figures in Education lineage and its founder,
2 Reverend Henry Veal I (1847-1919), for their historic contributions to the State of Georgia
3 and their unparalleled global academic achievements; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the foundations of this distinguished lineage were established by Reverend
5 Henry Veal I, a man of profound spiritual leadership and civic duty who, following the era
6 of enslavement, took the 1867 Voter Registration Oath in Baldwin County; and

7 WHEREAS, a pillar of the faith community, Reverend Veal served around 1870 as the likely
8 first pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church and gained prominence as a guest minister at
9 Friendship Baptist Church during the 1882 Baptist Convention, which serves as the hallowed
10 burial location of his distinguished descendants, including WWI Sgt. Henry Veal II, Rev.
11 Henry Veal III, Annie V. Brooks, and Gladys V. Bolden; and

12 WHEREAS, despite the catastrophic Baldwin County Tornado of 1875, Reverend Veal
13 demonstrated exceptional resilience, later becoming a mortgage broker agent to assist
14 citizens in achieving homeownership and being recognized in 1886 for a nine-acre potato
15 crop projected to yield 1,000 bushels; and

16 WHEREAS, this lineage, now known as The Masters of Education: Hidden Figures in
17 Education, has achieved a statistical milestone unparalleled in Georgia history, evolving from
18 a single ancestor to a global powerhouse of scholarship; and

19 WHEREAS, the bedrock of this legacy was formed by the Veal Six siblings, all career
20 educators who each dedicated a minimum of 22 years to the field, totaling 170 years of
21 collective service to the children of Georgia and beyond; and

22 WHEREAS, Milledgeville native Frank R. Veal (1913-1989) expanded this legacy to the
23 highest levels of university administration and global leadership, serving as the President of
24 Paul Quinn College and Allen University as well as as the Pastor of the historic Emanuel
25 AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina; and

26 WHEREAS, Frank R. Veal's influence reached the national and international stages, serving
27 as a leader at the national level of the NAACP and the international level for the AME
28 Church, and he notably hosted the 1949 Alpha Phi Alpha National Convention, which
29 convened 2,200 members; and

30 WHEREAS, during the era of mandated segregation, Annie Veal Brooks and Juanita Veal
31 Madison navigated systemic barriers by utilizing "Negro Scholarships" from the University
32 of Georgia Regents System to earn Ivy League postgraduate credentials; and

33 WHEREAS, Annie Veal Brooks bridged the gap to the highest echelons of academia by
34 serving as the secretary in the office of Dr. Millie Almy at Columbia University (Teachers
35 College) for a single summer while completing coursework and also attending specialized
36 workshops from Dr. Almy at the University of Cincinnati for a single summer—a legacy of

37 Ivy League excellence that continues through her nephew, Michael E. Veal, a professor at
38 Yale University; and

39 WHEREAS, Mattye Veal Binion exemplified extraordinary resilience by earning her
40 master's degree from the City University of New York (CUNY) during this same period,
41 achieving this academic milestone while managing the responsibilities of marriage and
42 motherhood, having begun her family at age 15; and

43 WHEREAS, the family's academic trajectory reached a global zenith with Tresselyn Douglas
44 Adams, a nine-degree alumnus of Georgia College & State University and a "Double Doctor"
45 (D.N.P. and D.P.A.), who is recognized as the #1 Most Degreed African American Woman
46 in the World and whose unprecedented achievement is currently being submitted to the
47 *Guinness Book of World Records*; and

48 WHEREAS, this legislative recognition builds upon Senate Resolution 343 (2011), which
49 previously honored members of this family as the "Founders of Education in Georgia."

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
51 honor the historic legacy of Reverend Henry Veal I and commend The Masters of Education:
52 Hidden Figures in Education lineage for their world-class service to the State of Georgia and
53 beyond.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
55 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of The
56 Masters of Education: Hidden Figures in Education.