

House Resolution 273

By: Representatives Smyre of the 135th, Hugley of the 136th, and Buckner of the 137th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Florence Christine Howard Pendleton; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
4 with the passing of Florence Christine Howard Pendleton on September 10, 2020; and

5 WHEREAS, Florence was born on January 28, 1924, in Columbus, Georgia, a beloved
6 daughter of John and Elease Howard; and

7 WHEREAS, a highly educated woman, she began her post-secondary education at Paine
8 College, graduated from Howard University with her bachelor's and master's degrees, and
9 was a PhD candidate at Virginia Tech; and

10 WHEREAS, a lifelong educator and administrator within Washington D.C. Public Schools,
11 she served for 40 remarkable years and was known for genuinely caring about her students
12 and staff and tirelessly directing an extraordinary amount of time and talent toward guiding
13 students to a brighter future; and

14 WHEREAS, following her well-deserved retirement as an educator and administrator, she
15 was elected as a shadow senator representing Washington, D.C., where she lobbied for
16 statehood for Washington, D.C., as the first female African American United States senator
17 in American history; and

18 WHEREAS, a woman of deep and abiding faith, Florence was an active member of Berean
19 Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., where she served as the church clerk for more than four
20 decades before rejoining her home church in Columbus, the First African Baptist Church;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, she was united in love and marriage to her husband, Oscar, and was blessed
23 with two remarkable children, Oscar Jr. and Howard; five wonderful grandchildren, Andre,
24 Oscar III, Crystal, Elease, and Christine; and five outstanding great-grandchildren; and

25 WHEREAS, she gave inspiration to many through her high ideals, morals, and deep concern
26 for her fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding she demonstrated to
27 her family and friends were admired by others; and

28 WHEREAS, she was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
29 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example she made of her life,
30 she made this world a better place in which to live; and

31 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous woman, Florence will long be remembered for
32 her love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who had the great
33 fortune of knowing her.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Florence Christine Howard
36 Pendleton and express their deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
39 family of Florence Christine Howard Pendleton.