

Senate Resolution 243

By: Senators Halpern of the 39th, Butler of the 55th, Dugan of the 30th, Rhett of the 33rd, Harrell of the 40th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the life and legacy of Vernon Eulion Jordan Jr.; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Vernon Eulion Jordan Jr. was born on August 15, 1935, growing up in the
3 nation's first public housing projects for Black people in Atlanta, Georgia, and he went on
4 to become an influential leader in the American civil rights movement, Washington politics,
5 and Wall Street who nurtured the next generation of Black leaders; and

6 WHEREAS, this son of Georgia obtained a Bachelor of Arts in political science from
7 DePauw University in 1957, where he was one of the few Black students in his class, and
8 earned his Juris Doctor from Howard University in 1960, and over the course of his life, he
9 received more than 80 honorary degrees from several institutions, including his alma maters;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Vernon served in influential roles in the civil rights movement, such as the
12 Georgia field director of the NAACP; director of the Southern Regional Council for the
13 Voter Education Project; executive director of the United Negro College Fund in 1970,
14 where he raised \$10 million for black institutions; and president of the National Urban
15 League, where he greatly expanded the number of chapters and budget for the organization;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, he understood the value of bipartisan collaboration and worked closely with
18 presidents Lyndon B. Johnson, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush, and
19 Barack Obama, and he was a friend and political adviser to William J. Clinton, serving on
20 his 1992 transition committee; and

21 WHEREAS, Vernon was an esteemed business pioneer who served as director and senior
22 advisor for numerous corporations, including American Express, J.C. Penney Corporation,
23 Asbury Automotive Group, and the Dow Jones & Company; and

24 WHEREAS, he was a transformative leader who brought the civil rights movement into a
25 new era and served as a proud member of the illustrious Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.; and

26 WHEREAS, Vernon is survived by his wife, Ann Jordan, and his daughter, Vickee Jordan
27 Adams.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 recognize March 3, 2021, as a day to honor Vernon Eulion Jordan Jr. and the contributions
30 he has made to this nation.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
32 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to his family and to
33 the public and the press.