

Senate Resolution 312

By: Senators Davenport of the 44th, Jones II of the 22nd, Butler of the 55th, Anderson of the 43rd, Seay of the 34th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Helen Odessa Dixon Davenport on the grand occasion of her 95th birthday; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Helen Odessa Dixon Davenport was born on May 16, 1926, in Jonesboro,
4 Georgia, the beloved daughter of Henry and Clara Dixon; and

5 WHEREAS, she received her early education in the Clayton County Public School System,
6 and after graduation from Jonesboro Colored High School in 1942, she earned a bachelor's
7 degree from Clark College in Atlanta, Georgia, and a master's degree in education from
8 Atlanta University; and

9 WHEREAS, her union in love and marriage to her husband, Nathaniel, was blessed with two
10 remarkable daughters, Gail, who is the state senator for the 44th District of Georgia, and
11 Carolyn, who is a retired educator; and

12 WHEREAS, during World War II, Helen worked in the summers of 1943 and 1944 at the
13 Atlanta Army Depot, now called Fort Gillem, where she learned to drive cars, trucks,
14 warehouse tractors, tow-motor fork lifts, and jitney buses, and she used the money she earned
15 to pay for her college tuition; and

16 WHEREAS, it was a joy for her to work at the base and send supplies overseas to soldiers,
17 many of whom were her friends and relatives, so they could win the war and come home; and

18 WHEREAS, Helen is a lifelong member of Andrews United Methodist Church in Jonesboro,
19 where she has served on the administrative, trustee, and scholarship boards, and her
20 stewardship reaches near and far as she enjoys fellowship with members of Andrews Chapel
21 and the community; and

22 WHEREAS, Helen's lifetime achievements include a great deal of community awards and
23 recognitions, including but not limited to the 2003 Outstanding and Courageous Service
24 Award from the Greater St. Peter AME Church in Jonesboro, the 1982 Clayton County
25 Reading Teacher of the Year Award as a reading specialist, and recognition for outstanding
26 service to the American Business Women's Association from the Greenbriar Chapter in
27 Atlanta; and

28 WHEREAS, she retired in 1990 after teaching for 38 years in the Clayton County Public
29 School System; and

30 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the exemplary accomplishments of this
31 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
33 honor Helen Odessa Dixon Davenport on the grand occasion of her 95th birthday and extend
34 sincere best wishes for continued health and happiness.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
36 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Helen Odessa
37 Dixon Davenport.