

Senate Resolution 618

By: Senators Halpern of the 39th, Orrock of the 36th, Harrell of the 40th, Butler of the 55th, Anderson of the 43rd and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Celebrating Dr. Joyce Finch Johnson's 90th birthday; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Dr. Joyce Finch Johnson was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky, in 1922; and
- 3 WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson has had a gift and passion since early in life, learning to play piano
- 4 by ear and performing her first recital at the age of 11; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson earned her doctorate in piano at Northwestern University in 1971,
- 6 becoming the first Black woman to do so; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson is a longtime member laureate of the Sigma Alpha Iota
- 8 International Music Fraternity, an organization founded to further the development of music
- 9 in America and throughout the world; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson has been the organist at Spelman College since 1955 and has
- 11 performed on thousands of occasions in that time; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson is the professor emerita of music at Spelman, an institution which
- 13 she taught at for more than 50 years; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson is the recipient of the Edward A. Hansen Leadership Award from
15 the American Guild of Organists (AGO), one of the highest honors bestowed by the
16 organization; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson celebrates her 90th birthday this year after decades of inspiring
18 people of all ages and races to pursue their passion for music.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
20 celebrate Dr. Joyce Finch Johnson's 90th birthday and encourage all residents of the State of
21 Georgia to explore the creative arts in honor of her legacy.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
23 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Dr. Joyce Finch
24 Johnson.