

Senate Resolution 27EX

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Mary Lee Hall Bussey; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, nothing is more vital to the future of our state than the education of our young
3 people, and Mary Lee Hall Bussey exemplified the selfless dedication that is characteristic
4 of our finest teachers and school administrators; and

5 WHEREAS, a vanguard at the forefront of women in higher education, she earned a
6 bachelor's degree in English and education from Spelman College in 1943 and a master's
7 degree in English and education from Atlanta University in 1949; and

8 WHEREAS, she moved to Columbus, Georgia, in 1950 after being selected to act as a Jeanes
9 supervisor and worked to improve school grounds, organize clubs to develop African
10 American communities, and enrich the local culture; and

11 WHEREAS, during her tenure, Carver High School was constructed, Spencer High School
12 was relocated, and countless other improvements were made that set a sturdy foundation for
13 her students to become successful adults; and

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14 WHEREAS, she enthusiastically trained the teachers under her tutelage and tirelessly
15 directed an extraordinary amount of time and talent toward guiding her students to a brighter
16 future; and

17 WHEREAS, as further testament to her giving spirit and dedication to philanthropy, she
18 established a food and clothing bank at First African Baptist Church; and

19 WHEREAS, she was a woman of unassuming greatness whose small acts of kindness and
20 generosity have uplifted the Columbus and the Muscogee County School District
21 communities; and

22 WHEREAS, for her years of work, the Muscogee County School District has granted Mary
23 Lee Hall Bussey the title of superintendent posthumously and honored her memory by
24 hanging her portrait in the Muscogee County Public Education Center; and

25 WHEREAS, in recognition of such remarkable contributions to the education and welfare
26 of Georgia's students, it is abundantly fitting and proper to honor the extraordinary
27 accomplishments and achievements of this outstanding superintendent.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 honor the life and memory of Mary Lee Hall Bussey and recognize her many wonderful
30 contributions on behalf of the youth of the State of Georgia.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
32 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of Mary
33 Lee Hall Bussey.