

Senate Resolution 559

By: Senators James of the 35th and Rhett of the 33rd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Avarita Laurel Hanson, Esq.; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the passing of Avarita Laurel Hanson, Esq., on January 22, 2024; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Avarita Laurel Hanson, Esq., affectionately known to her family and friends as
5 Rita, was born on July 21, 1953, in Harlem to Earle Lincoln Hanson and Gloria Grace
6 Troupe Hanson; and
- 7 WHEREAS, she graduated magna cum laude from Harvard and Radcliffe College in 1975
8 and was a member of the University of Pennsylvania Law School's class of 1978; and
- 9 WHEREAS, she often said that she had "ten careers" ranging from stints in private practice,
10 government, and academia to legal aid and advocacy; and
- 11 WHEREAS, after she moved to Atlanta in 1982, she worked as a consultant to the City of
12 Atlanta's Department of Administrative Services while also opening her own private practice;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, as an early member and the fourth president of the Georgia Association of
15 Black Women Attorneys, she is known as "Mama Rita" to three generations of attorneys who
16 continue to benefit from her leadership and generous mentorship; and

17 WHEREAS, although her accolades and awards are too numerous to recount in full, among
18 the highlights is the fact that the Black Law Students Association at John Marshall Law
19 School is now known as the Avarita Hanson Chapter; and

20 WHEREAS, a woman of deep and abiding faith, she was an active member of Cascade
21 United Methodist Church; and

22 WHEREAS, she was united in love and marriage to her husband, William A. Alexander, and
23 was blessed with two remarkable children, Justin and Colin, and a wonderful grandson,
24 William; and

25 WHEREAS, she gave inspiration to many through her high ideals, morals, and deep concern
26 for her fellow citizens and will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing her.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
28 join in honoring the life and memory of Avarita Laurel Hanson, Esq., and express their
29 deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
31 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of
32 Avarita Laurel Hanson, Esq.