

Senate Resolution 79

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Harbison of the 15th, Jones of the 10th, Beach of the 21st, McLaurin of the 14th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Judge Dorothy Toth Beasley; 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 Judge Dorothy Toth Beasley on May 19, 2024; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Judge Dorothy Toth Beasley was born on October 5, 1937, in Passaic, New
- 5 Jersey, a beloved daughter of Stephen and Beatrice Toth; and
- 6 WHEREAS, after studying American history and government at St. Lawrence University in
- 7 New York, she briefly worked at the State Department in Washington, D.C., before attending
- 8 the American University Washington College of Law, where she was one of only a few
- 9 females in her class; and
- 10 WHEREAS, upon her graduation, Judge Dorothy Toth Beasley began her distinguished law
- 11 career as a clerk in Arlington, Virginia, before becoming an associate at the law firm
- 12 Shadyac, Berg & Nolen; and

13 WHEREAS, during her tenure at the Georgia Office of the Attorney General, she worked in
14 the criminal division and argued five cases before the United States Supreme Court,
15 including the landmark cases *Doe v. Bolton* and *Furman v. Georgia*; and

16 WHEREAS, she further served as a federal prosecutor in the Northern District of Georgia
17 before becoming the first female judge of the Fulton County State Court, where she
18 introduced the county to the concept of community service as a criminal sentence; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1984, she was appointed by then-Governor Joe Frank Harris as the first
20 woman on the Georgia Court of Appeals, becoming the state's first female appellate judge
21 as well as the court's first female chief judge in 1995; and

22 WHEREAS, a dedicated member of her community, Judge Dorothy Toth Beasley served
23 with multiple professional organizations, supported civics education programs, advocated
24 for public health, raised awareness of child sex trafficking, and much more; and

25 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous woman, Judge Dorothy Toth Beasley will long
26 be remembered for her love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all
27 who had the great fortune of knowing her.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 join in honoring the life and memory of Judge Dorothy Toth Beasley and express their
30 deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.

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
33 Judge Dorothy Toth Beasley.