

## Senate Resolution 185

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Parent of the 44th, Jackson of the 41st, Jones II of the 22nd, Wicks of the 34th and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Nellie Dunaway Duke; 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 Nellie Dunaway Duke on January 28, 2025; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Nellie Dunaway Duke was born on March 8, 1931, in Cave Springs, Georgia,  
5 a beloved daughter of Jack and Emily Broom Dunaway; and
- 6 WHEREAS, she spent her early years in Rome, Georgia, where she attended Girl's High  
7 School and played basketball during a time when female players were restricted to half-court  
8 positions, excelling as a running guard through her skill and determination; and
- 9 WHEREAS, upon graduating from high school at 16, she played semi-professional women's  
10 basketball for two years before meeting and marrying Henry Duke in December 1948, with  
11 whom she shared 66 years of loving marriage; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Nellie Dunaway Duke was a tireless advocate and champion for women's rights  
13 who played a pivotal role in the efforts to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment in Georgia and

14 served for decades as the chair of the Georgia Commission on Women, often using her  
15 homemade "Nellie's Jellies" as a calling card to engage lawmakers and governors; and

16 WHEREAS, beyond her advocacy, she was a dedicated servant leader who worked as the  
17 director of Christian education for the First Methodist Church in Carrollton, the director of  
18 the Teen Club at the Carrollton Recreation Department, and the West Georgia regional  
19 director for the American Cancer Society; and

20 WHEREAS, she was blessed with five wonderful children, Gary, Carol, Kenneth, Michael,  
21 and Alan; ten outstanding grandchildren, Jonathan, Jessica, Jennifer, Jesse, Seth, Sarah,  
22 Emily, Amber, Ben, and Hannah; and ten magnificent great-grandchildren; and

23 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous woman, Nellie Dunaway Duke will long be  
24 remembered for her love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who  
25 had the great fortune of knowing her.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
27 join in honoring the life and memory of Nellie Dunaway Duke and express their deepest and  
28 most sincere regret at her passing.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
30 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of  
31 Nellie Dunaway Duke.