

Senate Resolution 277

By: Senator James of the 28th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Essie Frankie Mae Stegall Arnold; 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 Essie Frankie Mae Stegall Arnold on January 26, 2025; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Essie Frankie Mae Stegall Arnold was born on April 10, 1930, in Newnan,
5 Georgia, a beloved daughter of Essie Mae and Milton Stegall; and
- 6 WHEREAS, she was baptized at an early age at Dent Chapel A.M.E. Church and remained
7 steadfast in her faith throughout her life, later becoming a devoted member of Saint John
8 A.M.E. Church, where she served as a stewardess, an officer on the Steward Board, and a
9 member of the Missionary Board Society; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Essie Frankie Mae Stegall Arnold dedicated nearly 50 years of her life to
11 serving the City of Fairburn, Georgia, where she worked, volunteered, and contributed to
12 many schools, churches, and nonprofit organizations, enriching the lives of countless
13 individuals in her community; and

14 WHEREAS, she made history as the first African American city councilwoman of Fairburn,
15 serving with distinction for 12 years and earning accolades such as the Council Member
16 Outstanding Service Award and the Legacy Trailblazer Award in recognition of her lasting
17 contributions; and

18 WHEREAS, she was further invited to multiple presidential inaugural ceremonies, including
19 those of Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama, and was the recipient
20 of both the Commemorative Presidential Print Award and the National Resource Defense
21 Council Award; and

22 WHEREAS, a woman of boundless generosity and warmth, she was known for her
23 hospitality, her legendary home-cooked Sunday dinners, and her ability to make anyone feel
24 like family; and

25 WHEREAS, she found joy in nurturing both her community and her garden, winning Yard
26 of the Year multiple times and transforming her front yard into an unwritten landmark in
27 Fairburn; and

28 WHEREAS, she was united in love and marriage to her husband, Lawrence, and together
29 they were blessed with seven remarkable children, Lawrence, Alford Sr., Jane, Shanterria,
30 Cheryl, Bobby, and Kimberly, as well as 22 wonderful grandchildren and four beloved
31 great-grandchildren; and

32 WHEREAS, a compassionate and devoted woman, Essie Frankie Mae Stegall Arnold will
33 long be remembered for her love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed
34 by all who had the great fortune of knowing her.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
36 join in honoring the life and memory of Essie Frankie Mae Stegall Arnold and express their
37 deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
39 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of Essie
40 Frankie Mae Stegall Arnold.