

## Senate Resolution 300

By: Senators Anderson of the 43rd, Davenport of the 17th, Wicks of the 34th, Rhett of the 33rd, Harbison of the 15th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Sims family for their lasting contributions to Newton County and beyond;  
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Sims family has played an instrumental and historic role in the economic  
4 and social development of Newton County, Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, the family's legacy began with Cary Sims, who leased approximately 110 acres  
6 of farmland in the late 1920s to provide for his family, and on February 27, 1947, he  
7 overcame significant barriers facing Black landowners by purchasing the land for \$3,000 in  
8 cash, establishing a foundation for future generations; and

9 WHEREAS, Cary Sims' youngest son, Eddie Roy Sims, born on the family farm in 1932,  
10 served honorably in the United States Army after being drafted at the age of 19, courageously  
11 representing his country during the Korean War before returning home to build a career in  
12 logistics, construction, and automotive work; and

13 WHEREAS, in the 1960s, amid the Civil Rights Movement, Eddie Roy Sims defied societal  
14 expectations by launching his own landscaping business that later expanded into grading,

15 land clearing, and road construction, ultimately evolving into Sims Grading, a highly  
16 regarded company in the region; and

17 WHEREAS, his wife, Mildred Sims, a pioneering entrepreneur, founded a successful  
18 janitorial business in the 1970s and managed it for over 35 years while also contributing to  
19 farming and community support; and

20 WHEREAS, Eddie Roy and Mildred Sims were dedicated to mentoring Black entrepreneurs,  
21 providing guidance on financial literacy, business development, and self-reliance; offering  
22 financial assistance to aspiring business owners; and supporting local organizations such as  
23 the Newton County Senior Center; and

24 WHEREAS, their son, Lanier Sims, has continued the family's legacy, taking over Sims  
25 Excavating Inc. in 1996 and growing it into a leader in mass excavation, overseeing projects  
26 spanning more than 100 acres across metro Atlanta; and

27 WHEREAS, Lanier Sims has further extended his family's legacy into public service, serving  
28 as a Newton County Commissioner from 2011 to 2018, focusing on infrastructure, economic  
29 development, and improving the quality of life for residents; and

30 WHEREAS, in addition to his elected service, he has held leadership positions as Chairman  
31 of the Newton County Industrial Development Authority, Chairman of the Newton Chamber  
32 of Commerce, and a board member of the Newton Hospital Authority; and

33 WHEREAS, his advocacy has played a direct role in bringing over 15,000 jobs to Newton  
34 County and fostering sustainable economic development; and

35 WHEREAS, committed to philanthropy and mentorship, Lanier Sims served a vital role in  
36 the creation of the Newton County Miracle League, ensuring that children with disabilities  
37 have access to inclusive sports opportunities, and he continues to mentor aspiring  
38 entrepreneurs and future community leaders; and

39 WHEREAS, the Sims family exemplifies the values of perseverance, entrepreneurship, and  
40 service, having overcome historical challenges to build successful businesses, create jobs,  
41 and uplift their community for generations; and

42 WHEREAS, in recognition of Black History Month, it is fitting and proper to honor the Sims  
43 family for their profound contributions to Newton County and beyond.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
45 commend the Sims family for their remarkable impact on Newton County, celebrate their  
46 contributions to economic development and community service, and recognize their enduring  
47 legacy of leadership and perseverance.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
49 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Sims family.