

House Resolution 549

By: Representatives Holcomb of the 101st, Oliver of the 84th, Miller of the 62nd, Westbrook of the 163rd, Roberts of the 52nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Paula Lawton Bevington; 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 Paula Lawton Bevington on August 4, 2024; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Paula Lawton Bevington was born on September 25, 1937, in Cleveland, Ohio,
5 a beloved daughter of G. Albert Lawton and Mary Patricia Walsh Lawton; and
- 6 WHEREAS, she graduated magna cum laude from St. Mary's College in Notre Dame,
7 Indiana, at the age of 20 and earned her Juris Doctor from Yale Law School in 1961,
8 followed by additional studies at Middlebury College and the National Autonomous
9 University of Mexico; and
- 10 WHEREAS, following her graduation, Paula Lawton Bevington became the first woman
11 associate hired by Sutherland Asbill & Brennan, LLP, in Atlanta during a time when many
12 law firms did not hire women; and

13 WHEREAS, she served the Peace Corps in Washington, D.C., in 1963; conducted
14 international law research on a Fulbright scholarship at Central University of Venezuela,
15 Caracas; and traveled throughout South America and around the world; and

16 WHEREAS, Paula Lawton Bevington joined her husband, E. Milton, at Servidyne
17 Incorporated from 1980 to 2002, contributing to the company's pioneering efforts in energy
18 conservation, and later served as Vice President of Development for SciTrek; and

19 WHEREAS, she was as an active and enthusiastic alumna and volunteer for Lauralton Hall,
20 St. Mary's, and Yale, and she held leadership roles in numerous civic organizations,
21 including the Junior League of Atlanta, The Carter Center, and the Atlanta Legal Aid
22 Society; and

23 WHEREAS, she further chaired the Georgia Human Relations Commission, served as the
24 first woman president of the Rotary Club of Atlanta, and led the Justice Center of Atlanta;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, she was blessed with eight remarkable children, Milton Jr., Rickey, Peter,
27 George, Christian, Charles, Justin, and Mary; 12 wonderful grandchildren; and three
28 magnificent great-grandchildren; and

29 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous woman, Paula Lawton Bevington will long be
30 remembered for her belief in the collective power of family, friendships, and community to
31 promote and positively effect social transformation. This quality was at the center of her
32 leadership, from her teenage years throughout her entire life.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
34 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Paula Lawton Bevington
35 and express their deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
37 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
38 family of Paula Lawton Bevington.