

House Resolution 582

By: Representatives Roberts of the 52nd, Panitch of the 51st, Lupton of the 83rd, Holland of the 54th, and Silcox of the 53rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating and commending Maritza Morelli for receiving the 2025 Yellow Rose Nikki
2 T. Randall Servant Leadership Award; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in 1999, Representative Nikki T. Randall became the first African American
4 female elected to the General Assembly from middle Georgia, and over her 17 years of
5 service as a legislator, she held numerous leadership positions, including chair of the Georgia
6 Women's Legislative Caucus; and

7 WHEREAS, every year during Women's History Month, the Georgia Women's Legislative
8 Caucus recognizes outstanding women in Georgia who exemplify the leadership and
9 inspiration embodied by Representative Randall; and

10 WHEREAS, Maritza Morelli serves as the executive director and visionary co-founder of
11 Los Niños Primero, an organization dedicated to uplifting Latino children and families in
12 Atlanta through culturally rich and inclusive education programs; and

13 WHEREAS, originally from Venezuela, she founded the organization in 2001 with the
14 support of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church and launched the first Los Niños Primero
15 Summer Program alongside the late bilingual speech pathologist and diagnostician Martha

16 Barrios Mead, which welcomed 17 young students for two weeks of inspiring learning and
17 community connection; and

18 WHEREAS, under her leadership, Los Niños Primero has grown to impact more than 6,200
19 Latino children, youth, and families through programs that foster academic readiness,
20 community engagement, and leadership development; and

21 WHEREAS, Maritza Morelli has been widely recognized for her exemplary efforts,
22 receiving the Congressional Honor from Congresswoman Lucy McBath in 2022 and being
23 named one of Georgia's 50 Most Influential Latino Leaders by the Georgia Hispanic
24 Chamber of Commerce; and

25 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
26 extraordinary servant leader be appropriately recognized.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body congratulate and commend Maritza Morelli for receiving the 2025
29 Yellow Rose Nikki T. Randall Servant Leadership Award and extend best wishes for her
30 continued success.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
32 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
33 Maritza Morelli.