

House Resolution 597

By: Representatives Campbell of the 35th, Cummings of the 39th, Evans of the 57th, Jones of the 60th, Williams of the 37th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating and commending Irene Barton for receiving the 2025 Yellow Rose Nikki T.
2 Randall Servant Leader 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 during her 17 years of
5 service as a legislator, she held numerous leadership positions, including chair of the Georgia
6 Legislative Women's Caucus; and

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

10 WHEREAS, Irene Barton, a dedicated Cobb County resident and inspiring leader, was
11 named the Executive Director of the Cobb Collaborative in September 2018 after serving as
12 the organization's Resource Manager since July 2017. Under Irene's leadership, the
13 Collaborative leads the local coalition for Resilient Georgia and serves as the backbone
14 agency for The Basics Cobb County, an evidence-based early learning framework; and

15 WHEREAS, Irene is a member of the East Cobb Civitans and is the immediate Past
16 President. She currently serves on the boards of the McCleskey YMCA and the South Cobb
17 Business Association. In 2022, she was named a Woman of Achievement by LiveSafe
18 Resources. Irene was selected as a member of the 2021 Regional Leadership Institute Class
19 and was an Education Policy Fellow for the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education
20 in 2017; and

21 WHEREAS, Irene was named the Jack A. Vaughan Jr. Human Services Award Winner in
22 the Volunteer Category by the Cobb Collaborative in November 2015. Most recently, she
23 was named the East Cobb Citizen of the Year by the Cobb Chamber. She is an alumna of the
24 Cobb Chamber's Honorary Commanders and Leadership Cobb programs; and

25 WHEREAS, prior to joining the Collaborative, Irene held numerous volunteer leadership
26 positions with Georgia PTA at the local, district, and state levels and served on several
27 nonprofit boards in a variety of positions, including as Board Chair; and

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

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 the members of this body congratulate and commend Irene Barton for receiving the 2025
32 Yellow Rose Nikki T. Randall Servant Leader Award and extend best wishes for her
33 continued success.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
35 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Irene
36 Barton, the public, and the press.