

Senate Resolution 411

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Jones II of the 22nd, Mallow of the 2nd, Jackson of the 41st, Halpern of the 39th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Handy Johnson, Jr.; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Handy Johnson, Jr., has long been recognized by the citizens of this state for
3 the vital role that he has played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to the
4 welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and
- 5 WHEREAS, he has diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of his time,
6 talents, and energy toward the betterment of his community and state as evidenced
7 dramatically by his superlative service within the West End Neighborhood; and
- 8 WHEREAS, in 1971, Handy and his late wife Lois purchased and restored a historic house
9 in West End, and along with their two daughters, Jessica and Ursula, The Johnson's made this
10 neighborhood their home; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Handy enrolled in the University of Georgia College of Environment and
12 Design and received a master's degree in landscape architecture, making history as the first
13 African American to be awarded a graduate degree from that program; and

14 WHEREAS, his thesis was "Neighborhood Revitalization: An Analysis of Neighborhood
15 Conditions in Atlanta's West End," and it helped to solidify the structure of the emerging
16 West End Neighborhood Development (WEND) organization; and

17 WHEREAS, over the years, he served in various leadership positions in WEND as well as
18 with the Beautification and Environmental Health Committee, the Piedmont Park
19 Conservancy, the Atlanta Urban Design, the Joel Chandler Harris Association (Wren's Nest),
20 the Atlanta Preservation Center, and the City of Atlanta Comprehensive Historic Resources
21 Survey Steering Committee; and

22 WHEREAS, for 34 years, Handy worked with the State of Georgia Department of Natural
23 Resources in the Division of Planning and Research undertaking statewide planning efforts
24 and developing numerous parks around the state; and

25 WHEREAS, Handy's significant organizational and leadership talents, remarkable patience
26 and diplomacy, keen sense of vision, and sensitivity to the needs of the citizens of this state
27 have earned him the respect and admiration of his community; and

28 WHEREAS, he is a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation for
29 integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness; and

30 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
31 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
33 recognize and commend Handy Johnson, Jr., for his efficient, effective, unselfish, and

34 dedicated public service to the State of Georgia and extend the most sincere best wishes for
35 continued health and happiness.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
37 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Handy Johnson,
38 Jr.