

House Resolution 695

By: Representatives Roberts of the 52nd, Holland of the 54th, Tran of the 80th, Silcox of the 53rd, and Lupton of the 83rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Councilwoman Dr. Melody Kelley, recipient of the 2025
2 Georgia Single Parent Fifth "Legacy Builders" Award; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Councilwoman Dr. Melody Kelley has been honored with the 2025 Georgia
4 Single Parent Fifth "Legacy Builders" Award in recognition of her remarkable perseverance,
5 groundbreaking achievements, and unwavering commitment to uplifting her community; and

6 WHEREAS, she made history as the first African American woman doctoral candidate in the
7 chemistry department at the University of Alabama, where she co-founded the nationally
8 recognized Graduate Parent Support Program to assist student parents navigating higher
9 education, earning her doctorate in organic chemistry in 2014; and

10 WHEREAS, after building a distinguished academic career, she became a tenured associate
11 professor of chemistry at Georgia State University's Perimeter College and a STEM faculty
12 associate at the GSU Center for Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Online Education,
13 where she has shaped the next generation of STEM leaders; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2016, she moved to Sandy Springs with her daughter, Kiara, and quickly
15 became a dedicated advocate for education, serving on the PTO boards of Sandy Springs
16 Charter Middle School and North Springs High School; and

17 WHEREAS, she is the driving force behind Georgia State University's Rising Panthers
18 Program, which provides Sandy Springs K-12 students with immersive college experiences,
19 encouraging underrepresented youth to pursue higher education; and

20 WHEREAS, in 2021, she made history as the first African American person elected to the
21 Sandy Springs City Council, where she has continued her commitment to equity, education,
22 and civic engagement, serving as a powerful voice for her community; and

23 WHEREAS, she spearheaded Sandy Springs' first Juneteenth Celebration in collaboration
24 with the City of Dunwoody, bringing together communities in cultural appreciation; and

25 WHEREAS, Dr. Melody Kelley exemplifies the true spirit of a Legacy Builder, breaking
26 historic barriers, advancing opportunities for others, and working to empower future
27 generations.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body recognize and commend Councilwoman Dr. Melody Kelley on
30 being named the recipient of the 2025 Georgia Single Parent Fifth "Legacy Builders" Award
31 and extend best wishes for her continued success.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
34 Councilwoman Dr. Melody Kelley.