

House Resolution 735

By: Representatives Bell of the 75th, McQueen of the 61st, Berry of the 56th, Olaleye of the 59th, Flournoy of the 74th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and legacy of Reverend Clarice Marijetta Wyatt Bell Church and
2 expressing condolences to her family and loved ones; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Reverend Clarice Marijetta Wyatt Bell Church was born on December 9, 1929,
4 a beloved daughter of the late Mr. Alonzo L. Wyatt of McDonough, Georgia, and Mrs.
5 Clarice Wyatt (Williams-Vicks) of Camilla and Cuthbert, Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, she was preceded in death by her third child, Mr. Roy C. Bell, Jr., and is
7 survived by her beloved children, Dr. Ava P. Bell-Taylor, Mr. Eric Wyatt Bell (Sylvia), and
8 Dr. Clarice Marijetta Bell-Strayhorn; her grandchildren, Winston Wyatt Taylor and Ava P.
9 Taylor; as well as Erica V. Bell and Georgia State Representative Eric Wyatt Bell II; Jasmine
10 Hardnette; Jetta Marie Strayhorn; Zaila Clarice Strayhorn; and Wyatt D. Strayhorn; and a
11 host of loving cousins of the Wyatt family and the Williams-Vicks family; and

12 WHEREAS, affectionately called Marijetta by her parents, Reverend Church was deeply
13 influenced by her family's values of hard work and education, with her father laboring as a
14 Pullman Porter to provide for his family and her mother ensuring her academic foundation,
15 beginning with Spelman College Nursery School; and

16 WHEREAS, she pursued her education despite the challenges of segregation, excelling at
17 Ashby Street School, Booker T. Washington High School, and later earning a Bachelor of
18 Arts in Biology with a minor in Mathematics from Spelman College at the age of 20; and

19 WHEREAS, she embarked on a distinguished career in library science, beginning at Howard
20 University before earning a Master of Science in Library Science from Atlanta University
21 as an Andrew Carnegie Library Fellow; and

22 WHEREAS, Reverend Church was a dedicated civil rights advocate, supporting her husband,
23 Dr. Roy C. Bell, in his work with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and was
24 instrumental in the desegregation of Grady Memorial Hospital; and

25 WHEREAS, throughout her life, she embraced new opportunities, excelling in education,
26 real estate, music, and public service, serving as a librarian and media specialist at numerous
27 institutions, and establishing Clarice Church Realty; and

28 WHEREAS, she was an ordained deacon and later a minister, publishing multiple books and
29 earning a Doctor of Ministry Degree at the age of 77, demonstrating a lifelong commitment
30 to spiritual growth and service; and

31 WHEREAS, Reverend Church embodied the principles of love, faith, perseverance, and
32 education, extending her home to those in need and ministering to the vulnerable, especially
33 those affected by addiction and homelessness; and

34 WHEREAS, her unwavering faith was affirmed when she was ordained by Bishop Dale C.
35 Bronner, and she continued her ministry by publishing books, offering prayers in church, and
36 housing the unhoused well into her 90s; and

37 WHEREAS, she lived a life of elegance, intellect, humor, and resilience, remaining active
38 and engaged until the very end, leaving an indelible mark on her family, her community, and
39 the world; and

40 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this remarkable Georgian be
41 appropriately honored and remembered for her service, faith, and profound impact.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
43 the members of this body honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Reverend Clarice
44 Marijetta Wyatt Bell Church, extend their deepest sympathies to her family, and recognize
45 the lasting impact of her contributions.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
47 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Reverend
48 Clarice Marijetta Wyatt Bell Church.