

## Senate Resolution 755

By: Senators Jones of the 10th, Anderson of the 43rd, Wicks of the 34th, Davenport of the 17th, Orrock of the 36th and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Dr. Thomas L. Coleman; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens  
3 with the passing of Dr. Thomas L. Coleman on January 31, 2026; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas L. Coleman was born on July 28, 1945, in Gay, Georgia, a beloved  
5 son of AC and Virginia Coleman; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United  
7 States Air Force, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans for over 25  
8 years; and
- 9 WHEREAS, following his military career, he devoted his professional life to public service  
10 in Georgia, including as the Chief of Staff to former DeKalb County Chief Executive Officer  
11 Burrell Ellis as well as more than 12 years with the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice,  
12 where he served as Chief Deputy Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the Programs,  
13 Education and Youth Development Division; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Coleman was a former Director of the Governor’s Office of Highway  
15 Safety and served for more than a decade as a commissioner with the DeKalb County  
16 Housing Authority, as well as with the Housing Development Corporation of DeKalb  
17 County; and

18 WHEREAS, he served as a board member of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice,  
19 vice-chair of the Georgia Piedmont Technical College Board of Directors, chaired the 4th  
20 Congressional District of Georgia Congressional Black Caucus Scholarship Committee, and  
21 served on numerous civic and community boards focused on education, youth development,  
22 housing, and public safety; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Coleman’s lifelong commitment to service earned him numerous honors  
24 including, recognition as a DeKalb County History Maker in 2017 and again in 2026 by the  
25 DeKalb County Solicitor-General’s Office, a Lifetime Achievement Award presented during  
26 the administration of Joe Biden, and during the DeKalb County Martin Luther King Jr.  
27 Holiday Celebration of Service, Dr. Coleman was honored with the Nathaniel Mosby  
28 Humanitarian Award; and

29 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern  
30 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his  
31 family and friends were admired by others; and

32 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation  
33 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example he made of his life, he  
34 made this world a better place in which to live; and

35 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Dr. Thomas L. Coleman will long be  
36 remembered for his love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who  
37 had the great fortune of knowing him.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
39 join in honoring the life and memory of Dr. Thomas L. Coleman and express their deepest  
40 and most sincere regret at his passing.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
42 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of Dr.  
43 Thomas L. Coleman.