

House Resolution 1568

By: Representative Jackson of the 165th

A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating and commending Mercedes A. Arnold for receiving the 2026 Yellow Rose
2 Nikki T. Randall Servant Leadership 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 over her 17 years of
5 service as a legislator, she held numerous leadership positions, including chair of the Georgia
6 Women's Legislative Caucus; and

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

10 WHEREAS, Mercedes A. Arnold's dedication to service extends across local, national, and
11 international boundaries; and

12 WHEREAS, as the leader of an economic boycott march through downtown Savannah and
13 the organizer of impactful voter registration drives, Mercedes' voice and vision have
14 empowered communities and strengthened democratic participation; and

15 WHEREAS, as a United States Peace Corps Volunteer in Jamaica, and through her extensive
16 community work in Atlanta, Georgia, during the 1980s AIDS pandemic, Mercedes has
17 offered compassionate support to patients and families facing fear and uncertainty; and

18 WHEREAS, as a Field Director for the NAACP, she stood at the forefront of advocacy,
19 championing civil rights and expanding opportunities for those too often unheard; and

20 WHEREAS, she serves in leadership positions with the Savannah Historic Review, the
21 Savannah Economic Opportunity Authority, and the Georgia State Advisory Committee to
22 the United States Commission on Civil Rights; and

23 WHEREAS, through decades of principled leadership and selfless service, Mercedes A.
24 Arnold has made a lasting difference in her community and beyond; and

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

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body congratulate and commend Mercedes A. Arnold for receiving the
29 2026 Yellow Rose Nikki T. Randall Servant Leadership Award and extend best wishes for
30 her continued success.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
32 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
33 Mercedes A. Arnold.