

## House Resolution 1647

By: Representatives Cummings of the 39<sup>th</sup>, Campbell of the 35<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 60<sup>th</sup>, and Beckles of the 96<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating and commending Shelia Edwards for receiving the 2026 Yellow Rose Nikki  
2 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, in her home community of Cobb County, Shelia Edwards is a highly visible  
11 advocate on quality-of-life issues, housing, and public safety, and is widely sought after for  
12 her community advocacy and proven record of grassroots impact; and

13 WHEREAS, she successfully organized residents to prevent a waste company from  
14 expanding operations into an already overburdened neighborhood near the Chattahoochee

15 River, demonstrating her commitment to environmental justice and community protection;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, as Publicist for Olympic Gold Medalist Mel Pender, Shelia works closely with  
18 Mel and Dr. Debbie Pender to elevate the visibility, credibility, and impact of the Mel Pender  
19 Foundation; and

20 WHEREAS, in addition to leading media strategy, Shelia helps position the foundation for  
21 grants, sponsorships, and strategic partnerships that support sustainable growth and  
22 community impact; and

23 WHEREAS, from executive positioning to crisis communications, she serves as the  
24 foundation's trusted voice—bringing strategic clarity, reputation management, and a  
25 solutions-driven approach to every engagement for a hometown Olympic hero; and

26 WHEREAS, Shelia is also the Publisher of Spotlight South Cobb News, a weekly online  
27 publication dedicated to informing South Cobb and Metro Atlanta communities about issues  
28 that impact their lives; and

29 WHEREAS, a proud first-generation college graduate, Shelia earned her Bachelor of Arts  
30 in Communications from Benedict College, completing her degree in three and a half years,  
31 and later completed leadership and management certifications at Emory University Goizueta  
32 Business School; and

33 WHEREAS, she is currently pursuing a Master of Public Policy at the Andrew Young  
34 School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University; and

35 WHEREAS, beyond her professional work, Shelia is deeply engaged in civic and  
36 philanthropic leadership; and

37 WHEREAS, she currently serves as Co-Chair of the UNCF Mayor's Masked Ball, working  
38 with various Mayors during their terms in office, and helping raise millions of dollars  
39 annually to support students attending HBCUs; and

40 WHEREAS, she has served on the boards of Women Looking Ahead, AMAC, and SGF  
41 Foundation, as well as remains active with numerous organizations, including the National  
42 Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. (Metro Atlanta Chapter); Atlanta Neighborhood  
43 Development Partnership; Cobb County Democracy Center; Cobb SCLC; Atlanta Chamber  
44 of Commerce; Atlanta Business League; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and the United  
45 Negro College Fund; and

46 WHEREAS, with expertise spanning communications, government and community  
47 engagement, campaign management, operations, budgeting, fundraising, event planning, and  
48 digital strategy, Shelia Edwards continues to be a powerful force in shaping policy,  
49 strengthening communities, and elevating voices that too often go unheard.

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
51 the members of this body congratulate and commend Shelia Edwards for receiving the 2026  
52 Yellow Rose Nikki T. Randall Servant Leadership Award and extend best wishes for her  
53 continued success.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
55 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Shelia  
56 Edwards.