

Senate Resolution 979

By: Senators Halpern of the 39th, Kemp of the 38th, Wicks of the 34th, Davenport of the 17th and Anderson of the 43rd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Dorothy Norwood; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, born in Atlanta, Georgia, Dorothy Norwood is a legendary American gospel
3 singer, songwriter, and storyteller widely revered as "The World's Greatest Gospel
4 Storyteller" whose career has spanned more than six decades of transformative musical and
5 spiritual influence; and
- 6 WHEREAS, in the early 1960s, Dorothy Norwood joined the renowned gospel group The
7 Caravans, performing alongside iconic artists such as Albertina Walker and Shirley Caesar,
8 helping to shape the sound and direction of modern gospel music; and
- 9 WHEREAS, in 1964, she launched a successful solo career with the release of her debut
10 album *Johnny and Jesus*, establishing her distinctive storytelling style that blends music with
11 sermon-like narratives that speak to faith, struggle, and redemption; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Dorothy Norwood is celebrated for timeless works including "Johnny and
13 Jesus," "The Denied Mother," "The Old Lady's House," and "There's a Stranger in Town,"
14 songs that are widely regarded as gospel classics for their emotional depth and moral clarity;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, her 1991 album *Live with The Northern California G.M.W.A. Mass Choir*
17 reached No. 1 on the *Billboard* Gospel Chart, marking a major milestone in her already
18 distinguished career; and

19 WHEREAS, Dorothy Norwood has received multiple Grammy nominations and Stellar
20 Awards, recognizing her excellence, longevity, and enduring influence within the gospel
21 music industry; and

22 WHEREAS, well into her 80s, Dorothy Norwood continues to record and perform, earning
23 admiration for her powerful vocals, often described as "church-wrecking," and for her
24 unwavering commitment to ministry through music; and

25 WHEREAS, her legacy stands as a testament to the cultural, spiritual, and artistic
26 contributions of Black gospel music and its deep roots in the State of Georgia and across the
27 nation.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 recognize and commend Dorothy Norwood for her extraordinary career, her lasting
30 contributions to gospel music, and her role in preserving and advancing a vital tradition of
31 African American cultural expression.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Dorothy Norwood.