

Senate Resolution 1019

By: Senators Harbison of the 15th, Rhett of the 33rd, Parent of the 44th, Orrock of the 36th, Harrell of the 40th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and distinguished service of John Wesley Wilder, Jr.; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, John Wesley Wilder, Jr., a devoted husband, father, grandfather, veteran, and
4 community leader, was born on August 28, 1941, in Cleveland, Ohio, to the late John Wesley
5 Wilder, Sr. and Evelyn Eanes Wilder; and

6 WHEREAS, he received his early education in the Greater Cleveland School System before
7 answering the call to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Army in 1960; and

8 WHEREAS, John Wilder rendered two decades of honorable and faithful military service,
9 retiring with distinction as a Sergeant First Class, during which time he served in numerous
10 critical roles, including Drill Sergeant at Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Airborne Instructor
11 at Fort Benning, Georgia; instructor at the 8th Army NCO Academy in Korea; and ROTC
12 Instructor at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

13 WHEREAS, his military career took him across the globe, including assignments at Fort
14 Knox, Kentucky; Fort Benning, Georgia; Okinawa; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Mainz,

15 Germany; Korea; and two tours of duty in Vietnam, where he demonstrated courage and
16 sacrifice in defense of this nation; and

17 WHEREAS, for his exemplary service and valor, he was the recipient of numerous
18 prestigious military honors and qualifications, including the Master Parachutist Badge,
19 Jumpmaster qualification, Pathfinder Badge, Drill Sergeant Badge, Combat Infantryman's
20 Badge, and the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat during the Vietnam War; and

21 WHEREAS, following his distinguished military career, he continued his commitment to
22 public service as a Civil Service employee for 24 years and furthered his education by
23 earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Science from Troy University; and

24 WHEREAS, John Wilder has been an active and impactful member of numerous civic and
25 fraternal organizations, including serving as former president of the Men's Progressive Club;
26 a member of Sons of King Solomon #358 Masonic Lodge; Eddie L. Roberts American
27 Legion Post #333; former president of the Richard W. Williams Chapter of the Triple Nickle;
28 former state commander of the Donald R. Johnston Chapter of the Military Order of the
29 Purple Heart; and a dedicated member of the Lambda Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi
30 Fraternity, where he was honored as Omega Man of the Year in 2001; and

31 WHEREAS, he has faithfully served for more than 50 years as a devoted member of Greater
32 St. Mark A.M.E. Church, contributing his time and leadership to numerous ministries,
33 including the Steward Board, Trustee Board, Male Chorus, Mass Choir, Usher Board,
34 Kitchen Committee, and Finance Committee; and

35 WHEREAS, he is a man of deep family values, having shared over 60 years of marriage with
36 his beloved wife, Victoria P. Wilder, and together they have raised two sons, Michael K.

37 Wilder and Steven S. Wilder, and are the proud grandparents of three grandchildren,
38 William, Savannah, and Victoria; and

39 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is proud to recognize and honor individuals such as John
40 Wesley Wilder, Jr. whose life of service, sacrifice, and dedication to community exemplifies
41 the very best of this nation and this state.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
43 commend John Wesley Wilder, Jr., for his extraordinary life of service and extend their
44 sincerest appreciation for his military, civic, and community contributions.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
46 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to John Wesley
47 Wilder, Jr.