

House Resolution 1227

By: Representatives McLaurin of the 51st, Nguyen of the 89th, Boddie of the 62nd, Efstration of the 104th, Shannon of the 84th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Marissa McCall; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Marissa McCall was a beacon of light and a force for good who used her role
3 as Public Policy Director of the Southern Center for Human Rights to pursue justice tirelessly
4 in her work on local, state, and national policy; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Marissa was a graduate of Spelman College and the Paul M. Herbert Law
6 Center at Louisiana State University (LSU), at which institutions she received numerous
7 honors, including membership in the Ethel Wadell Githii Honors program, the National
8 Society of Collegiate Scholars, the National Dean's List, the Women of Excellence and
9 Leadership Series, and other awards; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Marissa dedicated her entire career to the service of people marginalized by
11 society, especially Black people, people of color, and those who are incarcerated, and to
12 transforming the institutions responsible for their marginalization; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Marissa led with humility and selflessness, never seeking accolades, yet she
14 received many well-deserved awards, including the State Bar of Georgia's Young Lawyer
15 Division's Commitment to Justice Award, being named to the Fulton County Daily Report's

16 "On the Rise" list of leading Georgia lawyers under the age of 40, and receiving the National
17 Association of Criminal Defense Lawyer's Champion of State Criminal Justice Reform
18 Award in 2015, among others; and

19 WHEREAS, Marissa was singularly talented in building relationships and effectively
20 persuading those in power on both sides of the aisle, all while holding those same people
21 accountable and refusing to stay silent about what justice requires; and

22 WHEREAS, to be unmistakably clear, Marissa always told you exactly how it was, and she
23 was loved and respected for this reason and so many more; and

24 WHEREAS, Marissa tragically and unexpectedly lost her life in May 2021, sending
25 shockwaves of grief through her family and community; and

26 WHEREAS, Marissa is survived by her most beloved son, Arion Davarius Dodson Jr. (AJ);
27 as well as her proud mother, Eva Katholeen McCall-Parry, and her husband Paul Parry; her
28 supportive father, David McCall; and her soulmate and younger sister, Danisha Shavonne
29 McCall; and

30 WHEREAS, no words could do justice to Marissa's life or legacy, but her community will
31 keep her in their hearts forever, in every way they can.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
33 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Marissa McCall and
34 express their deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
36 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
37 family of Marissa McCall.