

House Resolution 289

By: Representatives Jackson of the 165th and Westbrook of the 163rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating and commending Shirley Barber James for receiving the 2023 Yellow Rose
2 Nikki T. Randall Servant Leader 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 Legislative Women's Caucus; and

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

10 WHEREAS, Shirley Barber James currently serves as publisher of *The Savannah Tribune*,
11 one of the nation's oldest African American-owned weekly newspapers, as well as part of
12 numerous civic organizations, boards, and committees; and

13 WHEREAS, she has long been respected by her peers and colleagues as a champion of voter
14 education and empowerment who established Women Must Vote, the Voter Empowerment

15 Coalition of Savannah, and the Black Voters Matter Fund to increase power in communities
16 through effective voter registration and support; and

17 WHEREAS, her many awards, accolades, and honors include the following: Savannah State
18 University's Richard R. Wright Award of Excellence; recognition as a Savannah Black
19 Heritage Festival Honoree; the Georgia Outstanding Citizen award; Savannah's 100 Black
20 Men First Lifetime Achievement Award; the Consortium of Doctors' Humanitarian of the
21 Year Award; and more; and

22 WHEREAS, Shirley Barber James is a woman of unassuming greatness whose humble acts
23 of kindness and generosity have uplifted the entire Savannah community; and

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

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
27 the members of this body congratulate and commend Shirley Barber James for receiving the
28 2023 Yellow Rose Nikki T. Randall Servant Leader Award and extend best wishes for her
29 continued success.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
31 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
32 Shirley Barber James.