

Senate Resolution 270

By: Senators Anderson of the 43rd, Jones II of the 22nd, Davenport of the 44th, Butler of the 55th, Strickland of the 17th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Judge Horace J. Johnson Jr.; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the passing of Judge Horace J. Johnson Jr.; and
- 4 WHEREAS, a native of Newton County, he served since September 2002 as a superior court
5 judge in the Alcovy Judicial Circuit, which is composed of Newton and Walton counties; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he nobly presided over a parental accountability court and a veterans treatment
7 court, ensuring justice in child support matters and veteran substance and mental health
8 issues, in addition to his regular docket judicial duties; and
- 9 WHEREAS, a highly educated man, he studied at Emory's Oxford College and the Emory
10 School of Business, eventually attaining his Juris Doctor from the University of Georgia in
11 1982 and earning admittance to the Georgia Bar in June of that same year; and
- 12 WHEREAS, he lived a rich life full of professional accomplishments and community
13 involvement, as demonstrated by his participation with Leadership Newton County,
14 Leadership DeKalb County, and Leadership Georgia, as well his service as the president of

15 the Arts Association of Newton County; a member of the Board of Counselors of Oxford
16 College of Emory University; the president of the State of Georgia Council of Superior Court
17 Judges, where he was the body's first African American leader; and many other civic
18 involvements; and

19 WHEREAS, he was awarded the 2016 Robert O. Arnold Award by the Covington/Newton
20 Chamber of Commerce and the 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award by the State Bar of
21 Georgia's Chief Justice Commission on Professionalism, and in 2019, he was named by the
22 *Daily Report* as a Distinguished Leader in the Georgia legal community; and

23 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith who witnessed Christ through word and deed,
24 Judge Johnson was an active member of Columbia Drive United Methodist Church; and

25 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Michelle, and was blessed with
26 two remarkable children, James III and Bryant; and

27 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
28 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example he made of his life, he
29 made this world a better place in which to live; and

30 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Judge Johnson will long be remembered
31 for his love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who had the great
32 fortune of knowing him.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
34 join in honoring the life and memory of Judge Horace J. Johnson Jr. and express their deepest
35 and most sincere regret at his passing.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
37 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of
38 Judge Horace J. Johnson Jr.