

Senate Resolution 328

By: Senators Halpern of the 39th, Butler of the 55th, Orrock of the 36th, Harrell of the 40th and Jackson of the 41st

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Ambassador Andrew Jackson Young Jr. for his service to the City of Atlanta,
2 Georgia, and the United States; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Ambassador Andrew Jackson Young Jr. was born on March 12, 1932, in New
4 Orleans, Louisiana, and grew up to become a well-respected politician, diplomat, clergyman,
5 civil rights activist, and Emmy-winning film maker; and

6 WHEREAS, Ambassador Young is a household name in Atlanta that has become
7 synonymous with integrity and excellence; and

8 WHEREAS, he graduated from Howard University, earned a divinity degree from Hartford
9 Seminary, and was appointed to serve as pastor of a church in Marion, Alabama, before
10 going on to serve at Bethany Congregational Church in Thomasville, Georgia; and

11 WHEREAS, Ambassador Young moved to Atlanta in 1961 and in 1964 was named
12 executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; as a colleague and
13 friend of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., he was a strategist and negotiator during the civil rights
14 campaigns in Birmingham, Selma, St. Augustine, and Atlanta; and

15 WHEREAS, he played an integral part in the civil rights movement, helping to gain
16 congressional passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1972, Ambassador Young was elected to serve in the United States House
18 of Representatives in the 5th Congressional District, where he was a member of the
19 Congressional Black Caucus, sat on the Rules Committee as well as the Banking and Urban
20 Development Committee, established the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area,
21 and negotiated federal funds for MARTA and the Atlanta Highways; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1977, President Jimmy Carter appointed him to serve as the United States
23 Ambassador to the United Nations, making him the first African American to hold the
24 position; and

25 WHEREAS, Ambassador Young was elected mayor of Atlanta in 1981, and under his
26 leadership, the City of Atlanta expanded programs for minority and female-owned businesses
27 in all city contracts and, through the Mayor's Task Force on Education, established the
28 Dream Jamboree College Fair, which tripled the college scholarships given to graduates of
29 Atlanta Public Schools; and

30 WHEREAS, in 1996, Ambassador Young was co-chairman of the 1996 Summer Olympic
31 Games, and in 2003, he founded the Andrew Young Foundation, which focuses on
32 education, health, economic justice, and human rights in the United States, Africa, and the
33 Caribbean; and

34 WHEREAS, he was honored in 1999 by Georgia State University in Atlanta with the
35 renaming of its public policy school to the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, and
36 International Boulevard near Centennial Olympic Park was renamed Andrew Young

37 International Boulevard; the only full-service YMCA operating in Southwest Atlanta is
38 named the Andrew and Walter Young YMCA, and most recently, he was gifted \$1 million
39 from Delta to support the Andrew J. Young Foundation along with the renaming of one of
40 Delta's Atlanta headquarters in his honor; and

41 WHEREAS, Ambassador Young has written seven books, received over 45 honorary
42 degrees, won an Emmy Award for lifetime achievement, earned the Presidential Medal of
43 Freedom, lived an exemplary life built on service and dedication, and continued to live a life
44 that inspires those around him.

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
46 celebrate Ambassador Andrew Jackson Young Jr. on his 89th birthday for his fearless
47 commitment to the civil rights movement and his contribution to politics in the United States
48 and the City of Atlanta.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
50 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
51 press.