

Senate Resolution 422

By: Senators Burns of the 23rd and Lucas of the 26th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending a great educator and honoring the life and memory of Thomasenor Ballard
- 2 Folsom; and other purposes.

- 3 WHEREAS, the City of Adrian, Johnson County Educators, Adrian Chapel CME, and the
- 4 State of Georgia mourn the loss of one of the state's most distinguished educators,
- 5 humanitarians, and philanthropists with the passing of Thomasenor Ballard Folsom; and

- 6 WHEREAS, Thomasenor Ballard Folsom was born on September 6, 1945, in Adrian,
- 7 Georgia, to the late Reverend David Thomas Ballard and Essie Mae Ricks Bigham Ballard,
- 8 and she died on June 28, 2022; and

- 9 WHEREAS, Thomasenor Ballard Folsom grew up in Adrian and graduated as valedictorian
- 10 from Dock Kemp High School in 1962, Johnson County's segregated school at the time; and

- 11 WHEREAS, Thomasenor Ballard Folsom graduated with honors from Paine College of
- 12 Augusta, Georgia, in 1966 with a bachelor's degree in history; she graduated from Georgia
- 13 College in Milledgeville with a Master of Education and completed post-graduate studies at
- 14 Georgia Southern University; and

15 WHEREAS, Thomasenor Ballard Folsom, was one of the first African American educators
16 to integrate Johnson County Schools in 1970; and

17 WHEREAS, Thomasenor Ballard Folsom served the Wrightsville community as a highly
18 esteemed educator in the Johnson County School system for over 33 years; and

19 WHEREAS, Thomasenor Ballard Folsom was named Educator of the Year in 1987 and
20 1991-1992 as well as Teacher of the Year in 1998-1999; and

21 WHEREAS, Thomasenor Ballard Folsom also worked as an educator in the Georgia
22 Department of Juvenile Justice for five years; and

23 WHEREAS, Thomasenor Ballard Folsom served in multiple educational leadership roles
24 including president of the Johnson County Association of Educators, Georgia Retired
25 Educators Association, Johnson County Retired Educators, and National Educators
26 Association; and

27 WHEREAS, Thomasenor Ballard Folsom was a strong African American woman of great
28 faith who loved the Lord. She was a member of Adrian Chapel CME Church since
29 childhood, where she was baptized and received Christian experience and training. She
30 served in multiple leadership capacities in the CME church including secretary, missionary
31 stewardess, trustee, and church pianist until God called her home. She was also a former
32 member of James Grove Baptist of Wrightsville, Georgia, and St. James CME or Lovett,
33 Georgia, before reuniting with Adrian Chapel; and

34 WHEREAS, Thomasenor Ballard Folsom loved to praise and worship the Lord. She sang for
35 several seasons with the CME mass choir, The Voices of Sixth (Episcopal District), as well
36 as Adrian Chapel; and

37 WHEREAS, Thomasenor Ballard Folsom worked closely with the Mayor of Adrian Ms.
38 Wynola Smith, volunteering and serving wherever needed within the City of Adrian; and

39 WHEREAS, Thomasenor Ballard Folsom's hobbies included making quilts by hand; she
40 made over 100 titled quilts given to her children, grandchildren, and for philanthropic
41 purposes. Her gifted and philanthropic quilts were given to Dr. Bernice King, titled "I Have
42 a Dream" after Dr. Martin Luther King's famous speech, and to Dock Kemp Alumni
43 Association of Wrightsville, Georgia, for its 50 year anniversary. Other hobbies included
44 playing piano, reading, writing, watching Jeopardy, and Wheel of Fortune, and most of all
45 traveling worldwide; and

46 WHEREAS, Thomasenor Ballard Folsom was a humanitarian in the community who
47 selflessly gave to students, neighbors, family, friends, and whomever she knew was in need;
48 and

49 WHEREAS, Thomasenor Ballard Folsom was a devoted wife to her husband, Rev. Robert
50 Raymond Folsom; and

51 WHEREAS, Thomasenor Ballard Folsom was a devoted and loving mother to her four
52 children: Constance Folsom, Carol Folsom-Scott (James Scott Jr.), Kristen Folsom, and
53 Robert Raymond Folsom Jr.; and

54 WHEREAS, Thomasenor Ballard Folsom was a devoted, loving, and proud grandmother to
55 her grandchildren: Hannah Smith Townend, Halle Smith, Tiandra Folsom, Takylah Folsom,
56 Jazen Folsom (Nyla), Alexandra Folsom, Zayd McColley, Zyon McColley, Taranda Smalley
57 Wilson (Bryce Wilson Sr.), and James Scott III. She was also a devoted, loving, and proud
58 great-grandmother to Zephaniah Townend, Jaxson Folsom, and Moses Townend, Trevon
59 Scott, Nala Wilson, and Bryce Wilson Jr.; and

60 WHEREAS, in life, she commanded the esteem of all who knew her, and her passing
61 leaves a void in all who knew her.

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
63 join in honoring the life and memory of Thomasenor Ballard Folsom and express their
64 deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
66 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of
67 Thomasenor Ballard Folsom.