

Senate Resolution 617

By: Senators Jones II of the 22nd, Butler of the 55th, Orrock of the 36th, Seay of the 34th, Harbison of the 15th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Ed Tarver; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Ed Tarver, a trail blazing figure in Georgia politics and law, passed away on
3 Friday at the age of 64. Born in 1959, Tarver's life was marked by a series of remarkable
4 achievements, culminating in his becoming the first Black United States Attorney for the
5 Southern District of Georgia in 2009. His untimely death due to complications following
6 surgery in December has left a void in the legal and political community; and

7 WHEREAS, Tarver's journey began at Augusta College, where he earned his undergraduate
8 degree before serving as a Field Artillery Officer in the United States Army. His commitment
9 to service continued upon his return to civilian life as he pursued a law degree from the
10 University of Georgia, graduating in 1991. During his time at the university, he became a
11 member of both the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, and the Alpha Mu Boule of the
12 Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2005, Tarver was elected to represent Georgia's 22nd District in the Georgia
14 State Senate, where he served until 2009. His tenure was marked by a dedication to
15 community service, including serving as chairman of the Augusta Metro Chamber of
16 Commerce and president of the Academy of Richmond County Boosters Club; and

17 WHEREAS, as a community leader, Representative Howard was awarded for his work
18 starting the Lucy Craft Laney High School Mentoring Program for at-risk youth and for
19 being one of the founders of the New Savannah Road Social Services Outreach Program that
20 provided tutoring and activities to youth and seniors; and

21 WHEREAS, Tarver's most significant achievement came in 2009 when he was appointed by
22 President Barack Obama as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia.
23 As the first Black United States Attorney in the district's history, Tarver was instrumental in
24 shaping the legal landscape of the region, prosecuting high-profile cases, and advocating for
25 justice and equality; and

26 WHEREAS, in 2020, Tarver sought to continue his public service by running for one of
27 Georgia's seats in the United States Senate. Although his bid was unsuccessful, his campaign
28 underscored his unwavering commitment to the people of Georgia and his belief in the power
29 of public service; and

30 WHEREAS, Tarver is survived by his wife, Dr. Carole Dale Tarver, and his children. As
31 news of his passing spreads, tributes have poured in from friends, colleagues, and admirers,
32 all of whom remember Tarver as a man of integrity, dedication, and unwavering commitment
33 to the pursuit of justice.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
35 join in honoring the life and memory of Ed Tarver and express their deepest and most sincere
36 regret at his passing.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
38 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of Ed
39 Tarver.