

Senate Resolution 682

By: Senator Rhett of the 33rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Gwen Redding; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Gwen Redding began her first radio job in 1980 at the University of the District
3 of Columbia's (UDC) student-operated station WDCU, where she wrote copy, performed
4 production assistant duties, made voice overs, and filled in for other on-air talents; and

5 WHEREAS, shortly thereafter, she made the transition to the major station at UDC, 90.1 FM
6 WDCU, where she found her love for jazz and got to play music from straight-ahead jazz
7 artists such as Art Blakey, George Benson, Houston Person, Ella Fitzgerald, and others; and

8 WHEREAS, she also hosted *Jazz Vision*, a talk show on UDC's television station, and on
9 many occasions she lent her hand, voice, and influence to neighboring public radio station
10 WPFW to assist in their biannual fund-raising campaigns; and

11 WHEREAS, after giving her life to public radio broadcasting for 20 years, she decided to
12 switch to different endeavors and moved to Atlanta, Georgia, in 2001, where she attended
13 Georgia Medical to learn about nursing and became an aphaeresis technician with the
14 American Red Cross; and

15 WHEREAS, although she was working in a new town and in a new profession, her passion
16 for jazz endured and she began performing at small singing gigs around Atlanta, eventually
17 hearing from friend, mentor, and jazz saxophonist George B. Johnson about an announcer
18 job for the *Jazz at Sundown Show* on WCLK; and

19 WHEREAS, since officially launching in 2006 as Rivablue and taking the reins to first host
20 the *Jazz at Sundown Show* and then *Midday Jazz* on WCLK, she has become one of the
21 strongest and most popular announcers in Atlanta; and

22 WHEREAS, she also offers innumerable hours of her time and talents to community
23 organizations such as Students Without Mothers; the Unity Jazz Foundation, which provides
24 instruments for students via scholarships; the Atlanta Community Food Bank; Veterans of
25 Foreign Wars; and Cliftondale United Methodist Church; and

26 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
27 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 recognize and commend Gwen Redding for her many exemplary years of service in public
30 broadcasting as well as extend best wishes for continued success.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
32 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Gwen Redding.