

Senate Resolution 690

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Bill Gay and saluting Black radio personalities in recognition
2 of their global and cultural impact; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Bill Gay, for decades has served as a distinguished radio personality and
4 interdisciplinary champion of African American music and cultural affairs; and

5 WHEREAS, June is African American Music Appreciation Month, created by President
6 Jimmy Carter in 1979, to foster an appreciation for the global uniqueness of Black secular
7 music (jazz, blues, pop, and rhythm & blues) and nonsecular music (gospel); and

8 WHEREAS, Black, nonsecular radio personalities, jewels of betterment, since 1929 have
9 brought forth Scripture based spirituals that convey God's word in psalms and hymns
10 expressing faith and hope; and secular radio personalities have brought forth worldly relevant
11 music on street life, romance, and social consciousness; and

12 WHEREAS, during pioneering years of Black radio, Black deejays played the music of soul
13 singers, songwriters and musicians, whose talents were marginalized or excluded by the
14 indifference of mainstream radio; and who otherwise had no measure of opportunity to
15 broadly display their distinctive gifts; and

16 WHEREAS, quick witted, entertaining, informative, and humorous, these magnanimous
17 radio personalities on a daily basis affected African Americans from coast-to-coast reaching
18 audiences that included the literate and illiterate; the churched and unchurched; the white
19 collared and the blue collared; the well employed, underemployed, and unemployed; the
20 young and the old; and people from all walks of life; and

21 WHEREAS, these preeminent women and men of radio broadcasting, part and parcel of their
22 listening audiences, served as social engineers on the frontline of progress promoting causes
23 such as civil rights, social and personal responsibility, voting registration, economic
24 development, academic achievement, and collective awareness, and

25 WHEREAS, pioneering Black deejays went beyond the call of duty as intelligentsia voices
26 for the voiceless; beyond the realm of music bringing forth news and views when Black news
27 and views did not exist elsewhere, offering perspectives that enhanced the dreams, hopes,
28 and well-being of listening audiences throughout Georgia and this country.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 and members of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus recognize Bill Gay and salute Black
31 radio personalities in recognition of their global and cultural impact.

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