

Senate Resolution 691

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Todd Franklin; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, for decades, Todd Franklin has served as a distinguished radio personality and  
3 interdisciplinary champion of African American music and cultural affairs; and
- 4 WHEREAS, June is African American Music Appreciation Month, created by President  
5 Jimmy Carter in 1979, to foster an appreciation for the global uniqueness of Black secular  
6 music (jazz, blues, pop, and rhythm & blues) and spiritual music (Gospel); and
- 7 WHEREAS, Black radio personalities, jewels of betterment, since 1929 have brought forth  
8 Scripture-based spirituals that convey God's word in psalms and hymns, expressing faith and  
9 hope, and secular radio personalities have brought forth world-relevant music on street life,  
10 romance, and social consciousness; and
- 11 WHEREAS, during the pioneering years of Black radio, Black deejays played the music of  
12 soul singers, songwriters, and musicians whose talents were marginalized or excluded by the  
13 indifference of mainstream radio and who otherwise had no measure of opportunity to  
14 broadly display their distinctive gifts; and

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS, the members of this body and the members of the Georgia Legislative Black  
30 Caucus join WCEG Network Incorporated in saluting Black radio personalities in  
31 recognition of their global and cultural impact and call upon all Georgians to study, reflect  
32 on, and celebrate African American music.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
34 recognize and commend Todd Franklin for his service and contributions to African American  
35 music and cultural affairs.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
37 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Todd Franklin.