

Senate Resolution 797

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Tate of the 38th, Butler of the 55th, Parent of the 42nd, James of the 35th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Judy Davis Walker; and for other purposes.

- 2 WHEREAS, Judy Davis, raised in New York City, majored in political science at the
3 University of Georgia, and earned her bachelor's degree in urban planning from Georgia
4 State University; and

- 5 WHEREAS, Judy Davis was a 1975 graduate of the University of Georgia's Operation
6 CatchUp Program, which was specifically designed to encourage more women and
7 minorities to pursue law enforcement as a career choice; and

- 8 WHEREAS, Judy Davis entered the field of law enforcement and made history by becoming
9 the first Black full-time officer in the Roswell Police Department; and

- 10 WHEREAS, Judy Davis was the first Black female police officer to serve in the Fulton
11 County Police Department, recruited by the late Fulton County Commissioner Henry "H.D."
12 Dodson on April 30, 1976, and serving at the Southside Precinct until her resignation in
13 1981; and

14 WHEREAS, as the first Black female in the department, Officer Walker faced many
15 challenges, including both racial and sexual harassment. She endured and upheld her oath
16 as a peace officer while making a difference in the multiple diverse communities of Fulton
17 County, focusing on deterrents to incarceration by encouraging positive alternatives. As an
18 early practitioner of community policing, she often received performance evaluations saying
19 that she should be in public relations rather than law enforcement; and

20 WHEREAS, Judy Davis became Judy Davis Walker in 1980 and she is the proud mother of
21 two sons and three grandchildren; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1981, Officer Walker made history for the second time as the first Fulton
23 County police officer to give birth while employed, leading to her resignation in order to
24 become a stay-at-home mother, followed by her career in insurance and financial services;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, Judy Davis Walker, a resident of 40 years in Atlanta's Oakland City
27 neighborhood, is a community leader and activist, a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority,
28 and a longtime president of the Oakland City Neighborhood Association, among many other
29 leadership roles, including serving in her Neighborhood Planning Unit and the Fort
30 McPherson Local Redevelopment Authority.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
32 recognize and commend Judy Davis Walker for her service to protect others and build the
33 resilience of her community and for her history-making role as one of the earliest Black
34 women engaged in law enforcement in the State of Georgia.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed

36 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Judy Davis
37 Walker.