

Senate Resolution 800

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Parent of the 42nd, Butler of the 55th, Harrell of the 40th, Anderson of the 43rd and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Vern Edward McCarty; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the passing of Vern Edward McCarty on September 29, 2023; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Vern Edward McCarty was born on February 18, 1944, in Laurel, Mississippi,
5 a beloved son of Hugh and Lessie McCarty; and
- 6 WHEREAS, with a lifelong passion for urban community development, Vern moved to
7 Atlanta in 1972 to work for the Urban Training Organization of Atlanta, a nonprofit aimed
8 at reviving the city's in-town neighborhoods and preserving their historic housing stock; and
- 9 WHEREAS, as a community developer who worked to create neighborhood civic
10 associations, Vern was instrumental in founding the Association to Revive Grant Park, now
11 known as the Grant Park Neighborhood Association; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Vern's interest in historic preservation led to a distinguished career in
13 rehabilitating historic properties that included major projects like NuGrape Lofts, Crown

14 Candy Lofts, and The Massellton in Atlanta as well as the Broadway Lofts in downtown
15 Macon; and

16 WHEREAS, during his service as a neighborhood advocate and a member of the Atlanta City
17 Council from 1994 to 2002, Vern was heavily involved in the restoration of Grant Park, the
18 city's oldest park, and Oakland Cemetery, which predates the Civil War; and

19 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Caroline "Betsy" Lerner, and
20 the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his family and friends were
21 admired by others; and

22 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
23 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example he made of his life, he
24 made this world a better place in which to live; and

25 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Vern Edward McCarty will long be
26 remembered for his love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who
27 had the great fortune of knowing him.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 join in honoring the life and memory of Vern Edward McCarty and express their deepest and
30 most sincere regret at his passing.

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 the family of Vern
33 Edward McCarty.