

Senate Resolution 972

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Williams of the 39th, Butler of the 55th, Henson of the 41st, Harrell of the 40th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of John F. Sweet; 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 John F. Sweet on May 24, 2020; and
- 4 WHEREAS, John F. Sweet was born in 1943 in Detroit, Michigan, a beloved son of Fred
- 5 Sweet and Mary Ellen Funk Sweet; and
- 6 WHEREAS, an attorney, politician, and musician, John served on the boards of numerous
- 7 progressive nonprofit organizations, offered pro bono work to those in need, and championed
- 8 the rights of disenfranchised workers; and
- 9 WHEREAS, a trailblazer in organizational accountability, one of his first acts after being
- 10 elected to the Atlanta City Council in 1997 was to introduce an ordinance to install voting
- 11 machines that would keep a record of council members' votes; and
- 12 WHEREAS, as a longtime workers' compensation lawyer, John pioneered the idea that
- 13 workers' compensation insurance should provide housing and transportation for
- 14 catastrophically injured workers; and
- 15 WHEREAS, as a teenager, John and his three friends spearheaded protests against racism at
- 16 Woolsworth's in 1959; while working his way through college, he participated in labor
- 17 actions and student protests at every institution he attended; and
- 18 WHEREAS, an ally and friend of Atlanta's first black mayor, Maynard Jackson, John worked
- 19 side by side with black leaders to build a multi-racial coalition; and
- 20 WHEREAS, for 10 years, he served pro bono as an attorney for the Council on Battered
- 21 Women, serving over 200 survivors of domestic violence; and

22 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Marguerite, and was blessed
23 with two remarkable children, Cassandra and Eli, and four wonderful grandchildren, Dalia,
24 Roman, Dante, and Eloisa; and

25 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, John will long be remembered for his love
26 of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who had the great fortune of
27 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 John F. Sweet and express their deepest and most
30 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 John
33 F. Sweet.