

Senate Resolution 980

By: Senators Tate of the 38th, Williams of the 39th, Orrock of the 36th, Butler of the 55th, Parent of the 42nd and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Victoria Rowell; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Victoria Rowell, a former foster youth, overcame her difficult childhood to
3 become a celebrated ballet dancer, model, actress, activist, and author; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Victoria's commitment to ensuring that foster children are given equal
5 opportunities to lead quality and fulfilling lives has led her to found the Rowell Foster
6 Children's Positive Plan Fund, which gives emotional support and financial aid to foster
7 children – especially those who aspire to take advantage of opportunities in the arts; and
- 8 WHEREAS, she was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by the University
9 of Southern Maine in recognition of her work for the benefit of foster children; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Victoria was the first recipient of the Gift of Adoption Celebration of Adoption
11 Award, which is an award that is given to individuals or groups who are helping to unite
12 children with adoptive families; and
- 13 WHEREAS, she published a memoir of her life entitled "The Women Who Raised Me,"
14 which focuses on her time spent in foster care and discusses all of the foster mothers who
15 cared for her and her sisters, and which became a *New York Times* bestseller; and
- 16 WHEREAS, while living in Atlanta, Victoria heard about the Carrie Steele-Pitts Home and
17 found its history to be unforgettable; and
- 18 WHEREAS, she later shared the Carrie Steele-Pitts Home's history with the writers of the
19 UPtv cable movie, *A Baby for Christmas*, for which she was the executive producer, and the
20 movie delivered the highest ratings in the network's history; and

21 WHEREAS, as a result of her advocacy, Victoria was invited to speak on Capitol Hill in
22 recognition of National Foster Care Month, and she has been recognized by Congress for her
23 work on behalf of foster and adoptive youth and parents, as well as education, arts, and
24 diversity issues; and

25 WHEREAS, over the years, she has demonstrated her support of youth in foster care and
26 currently serves as a national advocate for the Carrie Steele-Pitts Home; and

27 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the accomplishments of this exemplary
28 citizen be appropriately recognized.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 recognize and commend the dedicated service of Victoria Rowell and reflect on the many
31 people whose lives have been enhanced through her advocacy, mentorship, and leadership.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Victoria Rowell.