

A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of Georgia Montgomery Davis Powers and placing a bronze plaque on her desk in the Senate.

WHEREAS, Georgia Powers was born in Springfield, Kentucky on October 29, 1923, the beloved daughter of the late Ben Gore and Frances Walker Montgomery; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Powers was raised in Louisville and attended Mary B. Talbert School, Virginia Avenue Elementary School, Madison Junior High School, Central Colored High School, and Louisville Municipal College; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, Georgia Powers worked as a riveter at Curtiss-Wright in Buffalo, New York and as a supervisor at the United States Census Bureau in Jeffersonville, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, Georgia Powers began a long and historic career in politics. She worked for Wilson W. Wyatt in his run for the United States Senate, on Edward T. Breathitt's campaign for Governor, and on Norbert Blume's bid for U.S. Congress. During this time she began to serve the marginalized people of her community, working for the Allied Organization for Civil Rights to promote fair employment laws in the Commonwealth. In 1964, she helped organize the historic march on Frankfort alongside Jackie Robinson and Martin Luther King, Jr., and went on to serve as the first vice president of the Louisville branch of the NAACP for ten years; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, Georgia Powers was elected to the Kentucky State Senate, becoming the first African American and the first woman to serve this honorable body. Serving until 1988, Senator Powers sponsored bills introducing statewide fair housing legislation and promoted laws prohibiting employment discrimination. She was the chair of the Health and Welfare and Labor and Industry Committees, and throughout her time in the General Assembly, she remained consistent in her vision for a Kentucky that was equal for all and committed to the ongoing pursuit of human dignity; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Powers was the author of the books *I Share the Dream*, *The Adventures of the Book of Revelation*, and a biography of her great-aunt, *Celia's Land*.

She was the recipient of many honorary degrees, including a Doctor of Laws from the University of Kentucky, a Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Louisville and Kentucky State University, a Doctor of Public Service from Spalding University, and a Doctor of Humanities from Simmons College of Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Powers departed this earthly life on January 30, 2016, leaving her family, friends, and a generation of Kentuckians whose lives were touched by her commitment to equality and justice in solemn mourning; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Powers was preceded in death by her parents; husband, James L. Powers; son, "Billy"; and brother, John Albert. She is survived by her stepdaughters, Cheryl A. Campbell and Deborah Rattle; grandchildren, Don-Fitzpatrick Lamont James and William Frederick Davis; four great-grandchildren; brothers, Phillip (Rose Marie), James I. (Marie Anne), and Lawrence F. Montgomery (Violet); and longtime friend, Leroy Anderson; and

WHEREAS, a bronze plaque shall be placed at Senator Georgia Powers' desk in this chamber, commemorating her service to this body and the profound legacy of service, compassion, and courage she leaves behind;

NOW, THEREFORE,

***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby extend their most heartfelt sympathy upon the passing of Georgia Montgomery Davis Powers and honor her for her profound service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

➔Section 2. A bronze plaque shall be placed at the desk of Senator Georgia Montgomery Davis Powers in rightful recognition of her service to the Kentucky Senate.

➔Section 3. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving memory of Georgia Montgomery Davis Powers.

➔Section 4. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this

Resolution to Senator Gerald A. Neal for delivery.