

A RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and memory of Jessye Norman; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia continues to mourn the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens with the passing of Jessye Norman on September 30, 2019, in New York City, New York; and

WHEREAS, an exceptionally gifted black soprano singer, Jessye Norman began her prolific career in 1969, playing the role of Elizabeth in *Tannbauser* at the Berlin Deutsche Oper; and

WHEREAS, her legendary operatic performances have been heard around the world, including appearances at La Scala, Milan; the Teatro Communale, Florence; the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; the Stuttgart, Vienna, and Hamburg State Operas; the Opera Company of Philadelphia; The Lyric Opera of Chicago; the Aix-en-Provence Festival; and the Salzburg Festival; and

WHEREAS, Jessye Norman's distinguished catalogue of talented musical contributions earned her numerous awards over her lifetime, such as France's Grand Prix National du Disque; London's prestigious Gramophone Award for her outstanding interpretation of Richard Strauss' "Four Last Songs"; Amsterdam's Edison Prize; and recording honors in Belgium, Spain, and Germany; and

WHEREAS, she gave inspiration to many through her high ideals, morals, and deep concern for her fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding she demonstrated to her family and friends were admired by others; and

WHEREAS, despite her incredibly demanding career, Jessye Norman dedicated much of her time and effort to serving on the boards of directors for various organizations in her community, including the New York Public Library, the New York Botanical Garden, Meals-on-Wheels, The Dance Theatre of Harlem, The National Music Foundation, and The Elton John AIDS Foundation; and

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

WHEREAS, she possessed the vast wisdom which only comes through experience and the strength of character which is achieved by overcoming the many challenges of life; and

WHEREAS, Jessye Norman possessed a beautiful singing voice that effortlessly combined immense size, raw power, and awe-inspiring presence; coupled with her thoughtful, provocative creative style, Jessye Norman will forever be remembered for the niche she carved in the history of singing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the life and memory of Jessye Norman are honored and the deepest and most sincere regret is expressed at her passing.

So resolved, this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Representative Wayne Howard
District 124
Georgia House of Representatives