

## House Resolution 1395

By: Representatives Evans of the 83<sup>rd</sup>, Davis of the 87<sup>th</sup>, Mitchell of the 88<sup>th</sup>, Bennett of the 94<sup>th</sup>, Drenner of the 85<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating and commending Donnetta "Dee" E. Smith for receiving the 2020 Yellow  
2 Rose Nikki T. Randall Servant Leader Award; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in 1999, Representative Nikki T. Randall became the first African American  
4 female elected to the General Assembly from middle Georgia, and over her 17 years of  
5 service as a legislator, she held numerous leadership positions, including chair of the Georgia  
6 Legislative Women's Caucus; and

7 WHEREAS, every year during Women's History Month, the Georgia Legislative Women's  
8 Caucus recognizes outstanding women in Georgia who exemplify the leadership and  
9 inspiration embodied by Representative Randall; and

10 WHEREAS, Donnetta "Dee" E. Smith is a proud DeKalb County native who was raised in  
11 Lithonia and graduated from Bruce Street High School; after high school, she received a  
12 Bachelor of Arts from Albany State University and a Master of Public Administration and  
13 Juris Doctor from Georgia State University; and

14 WHEREAS, Dee is a very active life member of the NAACP, currently chairing three  
15 committees: the Legal Redress Committee, the Jubilee Day Committee, and the DeKalb  
16 Remembrance Project Committee; and

17 WHEREAS, since 2013, she has served as the chairperson for the NAACP DeKalb's Jubilee  
18 Day Committee. Each year the program has sought to educate on various aspects of African  
19 American history, including but not limited to honoring DeKalb County's unsung heroes  
20 from the Civil Rights era, the plight of black Indians, assistance the nations of Canada and  
21 Mexico gave to the Underground Railroad, the Red Summer of 1919, and various  
22 back-to-Africa movements, especially the deportation of blacks to Liberia in the 1700s and  
23 1800s; and

24 WHEREAS, Dee established the DeKalb Remembrance Project, which is a coalition of more  
25 than 50 DeKalb citizens and community, political, civic, and religious groups brought  
26 together for the sole purpose of erecting a memorial to the victims of lynchings in DeKalb  
27 County; and

28 WHEREAS, in July 2018, she organized a civil rights tour of Montgomery, Alabama, where  
29 participants visited the Equal Justice Initiative's National Memorial for Peace and Justice, the  
30 only national memorial to victims of lynching; and

31 WHEREAS, Dee has established a glowing reputation of renown throughout Georgia for her  
32 efforts to improve the lives of the citizens of Georgia and fight for justice; and

33 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this  
34 extraordinary servant leader be appropriately recognized.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
36 the members of this body congratulate and commend Donnetta "Dee" E. Smith for receiving  
37 the 2020 Yellow Rose Nikki T. Randall Servant Leader Award and extend best wishes for  
38 her continued success.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
40 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to  
41 Donnetta "Dee" E. Smith.