

House Resolution 1780

By: Representatives Burns of the 159th and Abrams of the 89th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Dennis Lawton; 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 Dennis Lawton on March 4, 2016; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Mr. Lawton was born on November 13, 1951, in Sylvania, Georgia, a beloved
5 son of Archie and Iola Kelly Lawton; and
- 6 WHEREAS, upon graduating from Screven County High School in 1970, Mr. Lawton was
7 employed at King Finishing for 17 years, followed by Georgia Pacific for 23 years, and he
8 had the opportunity to own D&D Personal Care Home where he functioned as the caretaker
9 to many; and
- 10 WHEREAS, in 1985, he was elected to the Screven County Board of Commissioners,
11 making him the first black member of that body; and
- 12 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Lawton was an active member of Lawton
13 Grove Baptist Church where he served as a deacon and president of the choir; and
- 14 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his high school sweetheart, Dilsie Ellison,
15 and was blessed with three beautiful children, Troy, Deyonte, and Keshia; ten wonderful
16 grandchildren; and two amazing great-grandchildren; and
- 17 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
18 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example he made of his life, he
19 made this world a better place in which to live; and
- 20 WHEREAS, a unique gentleman who touched the lives of many, Mr. Lawton was an
21 inspiration who will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
23 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Dennis Lawton and
24 express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
26 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
27 family of Dennis Lawton.