

Senate Resolution 143

By: Senators Halpern of the 39th, Merritt of the 9th, Jones II of the 22nd, Orrock of the 36th, Esteves of the 6th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Xernona Clayton as the first recipient and namesake of the
2 General Assembly Appreciation Reception; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Xernona Clayton moved to Atlanta in 1965 where she accepted a position with
4 the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and worked closely with the late Dr. Martin
5 Luther King Jr.; she also traveled extensively with Mrs. Coretta Scott King on her nationwide
6 concert tours; and

7 WHEREAS, her persistent fight against the demons of prejudice and bigotry was never more
8 apparent than in 1968, when the grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan denounced the Klan and
9 credited Xernona's influence with his change; and

10 WHEREAS, Xernona was employed at Turner Broadcasting for nearly 30 years where she
11 served as a corporate executive and became one of its highest-ranking female employees
12 when she was appointed corporate vice president for urban affairs; in this capacity, she
13 directed internal and external projects for the corporation and served as liaison between
14 Turner Broadcasting and civic groups in Atlanta and across the country; and

15 WHEREAS, a recipient of numerous media awards, she has been widely honored for her
16 contributions to humanity, including recognition from the Atlanta-Fulton Day Foundation
17 Inc. board of directors; and

18 WHEREAS, this distinguished gentlewoman has given inspiration to many through her high
19 ideals, morals, and deep concern for her fellow citizens; and

20 WHEREAS, Xernona possesses the vast wisdom which only comes through experience and
21 the strength of character which is achieved through overcoming the many challenges of life;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, she has witnessed a dramatic change in the world over the course of her lifetime
24 and we salute her contribution to its progress by her own hard work and good citizenship;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding achievements of this
27 extraordinary leader be appropriately honored.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 recognize and commend Xernona Clayton as the first recipient and namesake of the General
30 Assembly Appreciation Reception and extend the most sincere best wishes for continued
31 success.

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 Xernona Clayton.