

Senate Resolution 302

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Parent of the 44th, Jones II of the 22nd, Jackson of the 41st, Halpern of the 39th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Rabbi Alvin Marx Sugarman; 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 Rabbi Alvin Marx Sugarman; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Rabbi Sugarman was born in Atlanta, Georgia, a beloved son of Helene Marx
5 Sugarman and Meyer Louis Sugarman; and
- 6 WHEREAS, a graduate of Emory University, he earned his ordination from the Hebrew
7 Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and served as assistant rabbi at The Temple in
8 1971, later becoming senior rabbi in 1974 and rabbi emeritus in 2004; and
- 9 WHEREAS, a compassionate and devoted leader, Rabbi Sugarman was instrumental in
10 fostering interfaith dialogue, strengthening bonds between Atlanta's diverse religious
11 communities, and the creation of Interfaith Atlanta, which promotes understanding, respect,
12 and cooperation among different faith traditions; and

13 WHEREAS, he was a champion for social justice who worked alongside civil rights leaders,
14 including the late Congressman John Lewis, to co-found the Atlanta Black Jewish Coalition
15 and advocate for the renewal of the Voting Rights Act of 1982; and

16 WHEREAS, he further worked to support his community through the establishment of
17 homeless shelters, including a shelter for homeless couples at The Temple and another for
18 homeless mothers and newborns in collaboration with Reverend Joanna Adams; and

19 WHEREAS, Rabbi Sugarman was a vocal advocate for LGBTQ+ rights, performing one of
20 the first same-sex weddings in Georgia, and he continuously fought for equality and
21 inclusivity throughout his career; and

22 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife of 58 years, Barbara, and was
23 blessed with two remarkable children, Lanie and Leah; and

24 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Rabbi Alvin Marx Sugarman will long be
25 remembered for his love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who
26 had the great fortune of knowing him.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
28 join in honoring the life and memory of Rabbi Alvin Marx Sugarman and express their
29 deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
31 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of
32 Rabbi Alvin Marx Sugarman.