

Senate Resolution 504

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Butler of the 55th, Parent of the 42nd, Halpern of the 39th, Harrell of the 40th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Bertha Mae Newkirt Darden; 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 Bertha Mae Newkirt Darden on August 14, 2023; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Bertha Mae Newkirt Darden was born on April 5, 1955, in Millen, Georgia, a
5 beloved daughter of Paul and Estella Newkirt; and
- 6 WHEREAS, she served as a champion of the Peoplestown community as well as an advocate
7 for the rights of Black homeowners, dedicating innumerable hours of her time and energy
8 toward marching and protesting in support of her fellow citizens; and
- 9 WHEREAS, as testament to her beloved leadership, she was recognized by the Black
10 Women's Roundtable, an empowerment program created by the National Coalition on Black
11 Civic Participation, with a Sister Leadership award last year; and
- 12 WHEREAS, a woman of deep and abiding faith, Bertha Mae Newkirt Darden was an active
13 member of Greater Christ Temple Holiness Church and was licensed with the International
14 Pentecostal Assemblies of the World; and

15 WHEREAS, she was united in love and marriage with her husband, Deacon, and was blessed
16 with four remarkable children, Dmitri, David Jr., Corey, and Australia; and

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

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

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

25 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous woman, Bertha Mae Newkirt Darden will long
26 be remembered for her love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all
27 who had the great fortune of knowing her.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 join in honoring the life and memory of Bertha Mae Newkirt Darden and express their
30 deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
32 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of
33 Bertha Mae Newkirt Darden.