

Senate Resolution 805

By: Senator James of the 35th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Naomi Ruth Barber King; 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 Naomi Ruth Barber King, the "Butterfly Queen," on March 7, 2024; and
- 4 WHEREAS, born in Dothan, Alabama, she was cherished as a beacon of hope and resilience
5 as well as a civil rights activist who served tirelessly alongside her husband, Rev. Alfred
6 Daniel Williams King, and brother-in-law, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., in the struggle for
7 freedom and equality; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Naomi Ruth Barber King dedicated innumerable hours of time, energy, and
9 grace toward her role as a First Lady, bringing musical concerts, women's enrichment
10 programs, and tools for living to her husband's congregations; and
- 11 WHEREAS, as staunch supporters of the Civil Rights Movement, Naomi Ruth Barber King
12 and her husband participated in historic events such as the 1963 March on Washington for
13 Jobs and Freedom, working together until his untimely death in 1969; and

14 WHEREAS, in memory of her husband, Naomi Ruth Barber King founded the A.D. King
15 Foundation in May 2008 with the mission of empowering youth and women and advancing
16 strategies for nonviolent social change; and

17 WHEREAS, Naomi Ruth Barber King was blessed with five remarkable children, Alfred
18 D.W. King III, Alveda King, Esther Darlene King, Reverend Vernon King, and Reverend
19 Derek B. King, as well as numerous wonderful grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

20 WHEREAS, she earned many awards, accolades, and honors in recognition of her decades
21 of distinguished service to others, including the S. C. L. C. Rosa Parks Freedom Award, the
22 Hope Worldwide Living Legend Award, the A. D. King Foundation: Truth Finder Award,
23 the Principled Life Award, and more; and

24 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous woman, Naomi Ruth Barber King will long be
25 remembered for her love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who
26 had the great fortune of knowing her.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
28 join in honoring the life and memory of Naomi Ruth Barber King and express their deepest
29 and most sincere regret at her 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 Naomi Ruth Barber King.