

Senate Resolution 831

By: Senators Davenport of the 44th and James of the 35th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Booker T. Washington High School, Atlanta, Georgia, on the occasion of its
2 Centennial Celebration, 1924-2024; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Booker T. Washington High School is a public high school in Atlanta, Georgia,
4 which opened in September 1924 under the auspices of the Atlanta Board of Education. It
5 was the first public high school for African Americans in the Atlanta Public Schools System
6 and the State of Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, this historic institution was named for one of the foremost African American
8 educators of the late 19th and early 20th centuries; educator, author, and orator Booker T.
9 Washington, who was born into slavery and rose to prominence as the first leader of the new
10 Tuskegee Institute in 1881. He played a dominant role in Black politics; was co-founder of
11 the National Negro Business League; and was so acclaimed as a public leader that the period
12 from 1880 to 1915 has been called the "Age of Booker T. Washington"; and

13 WHEREAS, the high school is the site of the only exact replica of the original bronze
14 "Booker T. Washington Lifting the Veil of Ignorance" monument, which is at Tuskegee
15 University in Alabama and was erected at the high school's entrance in 1927. The statue of

16 Booker T. Washington has the inscription, "He lifted the veil of ignorance from his people
17 and pointed the way to progress through education and industry"; and

18 WHEREAS, Booker T. Washington High School, Atlanta, Georgia, was placed on the
19 National Register of Historic Places in 1986; and

20 WHEREAS, in addition to its core academic programs of study, Booker T. Washington High
21 School hosts the Banking, Finance, and Investment Small School (BFI) for students to learn
22 about business and finance; the School of Health Science and Nutrition (BTWHSN), which
23 provides an interdisciplinary curriculum with hands-on discovery, experimentation, and
24 inquiry-based learning in healthcare and nutrition; and the Early College concept, which
25 affords students the opportunity to prepare for post-secondary education by obtaining college
26 credits while still attending high school; and

27 WHEREAS, Booker T. Washington's extracurricular activities, clubs, and organizations
28 support a diverse educational experience and include the Academic Enrichment Team,
29 Band/Auxiliaries, Beta Club, National Honor Society, Chess Club, Dance Ensemble, Chorus,
30 Debate Team, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), French Club, Future Educators
31 of America (FEA), Glee Club, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Mu Alpha
32 Theta (Mathematics Honor Society), Photography/Videography Club, Spanish Club, Stock
33 Market/Finance Club, Student Government Association, Student Support Team, and *The*
34 *Washingtonian* newspaper and yearbook staffs; and

35 WHEREAS, Booker T. Washington High School offers a full complement of athletic
36 activities for students to participate in, including football, softball, baseball, track & field,
37 cross country, cheerleading, soccer, volleyball, golf, basketball, band, swimming, and tennis;
38 and

39 WHEREAS, in its hundred-year history, Booker T. Washington High School has produced
40 many notable alumni in the areas of Religion, Arts & Entertainment, Sports, Government &
41 Politics, Science & Medicine, and Education; and

42 WHEREAS, the Atlanta Public Schools System, City of Atlanta, and the Georgia community
43 as a whole have been greatly enriched by the many contributions of students who have
44 walked the hallowed halls of Booker T. Washington High School, graduated, and gone on
45 to be productive and contributing members of society, community leaders, and captains of
46 industry.

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
48 commend Booker T. Washington High School as well as the faculty, students, staff, alumni,
49 the BTW Booster Club, and Friends of BTW for their many years of dedicated service to
50 excellence in education and recognize Booker T. Washington High School, Atlanta, Georgia,
51 on the grand occasion of its Centennial Celebration, 1924-2024.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
53 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Booker T.
54 Washington High School, the Atlanta Public Schools System/Board of Education, the BTW
55 Booster Club, and the BTW Alumni Association.