

Senate Resolution 865

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Butler of the 55th, Parent of the 42nd, Halpern of the 39th,
Jones II of the 22nd and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of David E. Harris; 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 David E. Harris March 8, 2024; and
- 4 WHEREAS, he was born in Columbus, Ohio, on December 22, 1934, a beloved son of
5 Wilbur Rothchild Harris, Sr., and Ruth A. Estis Harris; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
7 States Air Force, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans during the Cold
8 War and rising to the rank of captain; and
- 9 WHEREAS, he was first Black pilot to fly for a major American airline and the first Black
10 commercial pilot to become a captain; and
- 11 WHEREAS, he achieved trailblazer status with his hiring as a pilot in 1964, but said "There
12 is no way I should be the first. It should've happened long before 1964."; and
- 13 WHEREAS, flew for American Airlines for 30 years, retiring in 1994; and

14 WHEREAS, he was blessed with two remarkable children Camian and Leslie, six wonderful
15 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren; and

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

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

22 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, he will long be remembered for his love
23 of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who had the great fortune of
24 knowing him.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
26 join in honoring the life and memory of David E. Harris and express their deepest and most
27 sincere regret at his passing.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
29 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of
30 David E. Harris.