

**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing Vernon Jordan.

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**RANDOLPH LONNIE M,  
TAYLOR G, MELTON, BREAUX**

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\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

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Introduced

First Regular Session 122nd General Assembly (2021)

**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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1           A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing Vernon  
2           Jordan.

3           *Whereas, Civil Rights Activist Vernon Jordan passed away*  
4           *on March 1st, 2021, at the age of 85 years old;*

5           *Whereas, Vernon Eulion Jordan Jr. was born in Atlanta,*  
6           *Georgia, on August 15, 1935, to loving parents, Vernon and*  
7           *Mary Belle Jordan;*

8           *Whereas, Jordan grew up with his older brother, Windsor,*  
9           *and his parents in Atlanta, and he was an honors student at*  
10          *David T. Howard High School;*

11          *Whereas, Jordan attended DePauw University in*  
12          *Greencastle, Indiana, where he was the only African-American*  
13          *student in his class and one of five at the college;*

14          *Whereas, Jordan was distinguished in many areas*  
15          *including academics, oratory, and athletics, and in 1957,*  
16          *Jordan graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Political*  
17          *Science and went on to attend Howard University School of*  
18          *Law in Washington, D.C.;*

19          *Whereas, Upon graduation, Jordan joined the law office of*  
20          *Donald L. Hollowell, where he was involved in the lawsuit*  
21          *against the University of Georgia for racial discrimination in*  
22          *its admission practices;*



1           *Whereas, Jordan left private law practice shortly after, and*  
2 *in 1961, Jordan became the Georgia field secretary for the*  
3 *National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,*  
4 *and in his two years under this role, Jordan built new chapters,*  
5 *coordinated demonstrations, and boycotted businesses that*  
6 *would not employ African-Americans;*

7           *Whereas, In 1964, Jordan moved to Arkansas and went into*  
8 *private practice, and then became the director of the Voter*  
9 *Education Project of the Southern Regional Council, and in this*  
10 *role, millions of new African-American registered to vote and*  
11 *hundreds of new African-Americans were elected in the South;*  
12

13           *Whereas, In 1970, Jordan became the executive director of*  
14 *the United Negro College fund and managed to fill the*  
15 *organization's coffers with \$10 million to help students at*  
16 *historically Black colleges and Universities;*

17           *Whereas, In 1971, Jordan became the first lawyer to head*  
18 *the Urban League, which had traditionally been held by social*  
19 *workers, and under his leadership, Jordan added 17 more*  
20 *chapters and brought the budget to over 100 million dollars,*  
21 *and broadened the focus of the organization to include voter*  
22 *registration drives and conflict resolution between*  
23 *African-American's and law enforcement;*

24           *Whereas, In 1980, Jordan was nearly killed by Joseph Paul*  
25 *Franklin, an avowed white supremacist who targeted Black and*  
26 *Jewish people in a cross-country killing spree from 1977 to*  
27 *1980;*

28           *Whereas, Jordan's first wife, Shirley, and the mother of his*  
29 *first child, Vickee Jordan Adams, passed away in 1985;*

30           *Whereas, In 1986, Jordan remarried Ann Dibble Jordan*  
31 *and assumed her four children, Antoinette "Toni", Mercer,*  
32 *Janice, and Jacqueline;*

33           *Whereas, Due to Jordan's close relationship with former*  
34 *President Bill Clinton, he became an unofficial aide for Bill*



1 *Clinton during his presidency, and a Washington insider and*  
2 *corporate influencer;*

3 *Whereas, Beginning in 2000, Jordan was a senior*  
4 *managing director with Lazard Freres & Co. LLC, and was on*  
5 *the board of directors of American Express, J.C. Penney*  
6 *Corporation, Asbury Automotive Group, Dow Jones &*  
7 *Company, Revlon, Sara Lee, Corning, Xerox, and RJR Nabisco;*

8 *Whereas, Jordan worked for John Kerry's presidential*  
9 *campaign in 2004, and the same year was elected as the*  
10 *president of the Economic Club of Washington D.C.;*

11 *Whereas, Throughout his life, Jordan was awarded with the*  
12 *Barnard Medal of Distinction in 1983, the Spingarn Medal by*  
13 *the NAACP in 2001, and was a lifetime member of the Council*  
14 *on Foreign Relations, a member of the Bilderberg Group, and*  
15 *a member of Omega Psi Phi and Sigma Pi Phi; and*

16 *Whereas, Jordan's legacy lives on through his wife, Ann*  
17 *Jordan, his children, and his nine grandchildren: Therefore,*

18 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly*  
19 *of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives*  
20 *concurring:*

21 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly  
22 memorializes Vernon Jordan.

23 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed  
24 to transmit a copy of this Resolution to his wife, Ann Jordan.

