A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Barbara Pace Hunt, Myra Payne Elliott, and Iris Mae Welch;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Barbara Pace Hunt, Myra Payne Elliott, and Iris Mae Welch all resided in
4 Atlanta, Georgia, in 1956, excelled academically, and aspired to earn a college degree; and

5 WHEREAS, these women applied and were qualified for admission to the newly formed
6 Georgia State College of Business Administration; and

7 WHEREAS, on June 14, 1956, their applications, along with six other applications, were
8 denied because of their race; and

9 WHEREAS, Barbara Pace Hunt, Myra Payne Elliott, and Iris Mae Welch successfully sued
10 the State of Georgia and the Board of Regents on September 18, 1956, on the grounds that
11 they were unfairly discriminated against and denied equal protection under the law; and

12 WHEREAS, that court decision, Hunt v. Arnold, although it did not grant Barbara Pace Hunt,
13 Myra Payne Elliott, and Iris Mae Welch immediate admission, was a significant move that
14 contributed to dismantling racial discrimination in public higher education in Georgia; and

15 WHEREAS, these sacrifices and efforts have resulted in future generations of minority
16 students attending Georgia State University, which now awards more undergraduate degrees
17 to African Americans than any other university in the country; and

18 WHEREAS, the courageous actions of these remarkable individuals should be appropriately
19 recognized, including their persistence in pursuing an education; and

20 WHEREAS, the journey of these young woman is chronicled in a new book, Ground Crew,
21 by Maurice C. Daniels, dean emeritus of the University of Georgia School of Social Work,
who will be the inaugural speaker for the Groundbreaker Lecture Series at Georgia State University.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the members of this body recognize and commend Barbara Pace Hunt, Myra Payne Elliott, and Iris Mae Welch for their struggle against systemic oppression and injustice for the purpose of granting access to public higher education in Georgia, thereby enriching the lives of countless citizens of this great state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Myra Payne Elliott and the families of Barbara Pace Hunt and Iris Mae Welch.