

THE DAVENPORT COURIER

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The 2017 GA Legislative Session Begins

A Message from Senator Gail Davenport

“The Georgia Capitol filled up once again on January 9, 2017, to begin the first session of the 154th Georgia General Assembly. This session is assured to be a productive one as my colleagues and I work together to serve our communities and the great state of Georgia. I look forward to doing my best to represent Senate District 44 as we start another exciting year. In the meantime, please don’t hesitate to reach out to my office at any time with your questions and concerns about any legislation.”

-Sen. Gail Davenport (D – Jonesboro)



Senators Sworn in for the 2017 Legislative Session

Lt. Governor Casey Cage welcomed 55 senators to launch the beginning of the 2017 legislative session. All Senators were sworn in by former state senator and Georgia Court of Appeals Judge Charlie Bethel.



Carolyn Davenport holds bible as Senator Davenport takes oath of office administered By Georgia Court of Appeals Judge Charlie Bethel.

Senate Passes First Resolutions of the Legislative Session

Sen. David Shafer (R- Duluth) sponsored Senate Resolutions 1 through 4. SR 1 approves the adoption of the Senate Rules for the 2017-2018 legislative term. SR 2 states that the Senate has convened for the 2017 legislative session and SR 3 notifies the governor that the General Assembly has convened. SR 4, the biennial housekeeping resolution, sets provision for the 2017 General Assembly

On Wednesday, Governor Nathan Deal gave his State Address and gave highlights of his fiscal year 2018 budget proposal and his amended fiscal year 2017 budget. In his address, he highlighted topics like education, in which he proposed a pay increase for teachers and a funding increase for K-12 education. He also proposed a pay increase for service workers and police officers, and announced a new Cyber Innovation and Training Center to be built in August.

Clayton State University Day Senate Resolution 9, sponsored by Sen. Gail Davenport (D – Jonesboro), recognizes January 10, 2017 as Clayton State University Day at the Capitol, commending the University for its growth in size and prestige. Clayton State University, established in 1959, boasts an enrollment of 6,900 students.



Senator Davenport pictured with President Hynes Lt. Governor Cagle & various Clayton State University representatives.



Senator Davenport pictured with CAU students during Clark Atlanta University Day at the Capitol.

Clark Atlanta Day at the Capitol Senator Horacena Tate (D – Atlanta) sponsored Senate resolution 109 recognizing February 1, 2017, as Clark Atlanta University Day at the Capitol. The Senate welcomed Clark Atlanta University (CAU) president Ronald A. Johnson to the Chamber, where he spoke about the university's accomplishments. CAU hosts the Center for Cancer research and Therapeutic Development and is the only historically Black college and University that is a member of the Georgia research Alliance. CAU was established in 1988 and is known for its mass media arts program and producing Jazz 91/9 FM-WCLK.

The Senate attended a joint session on January 25th in the House Chamber to hear the annual State of the Judiciary Address delivered by Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice P. Harris Hines who spoke about what the judicial branch has accomplished in the last year, the problems it still faces and the steps that need to be taken to solve them. Chief Justice Hines touted that Georgia has become a national leader in criminal justice reform policy. It was noted that Georgia still has room for improvement.

Stop Violence Against Women Day

Senate Resolution 83, sponsored by Sen. Elena Parent (D – Atlanta), recognizes February 8, 2017, as Stop Violence Against Women Day at the state Capitol. Domestic violence is a leading cause of injury to American women of every age, culture, class, gender, sexual orientation, race and religion, and witnessing such violence can have a devastating emotional effect on children. The dedicated efforts of the professionals and volunteers who make it their mission to stop violence against women are hereby commended.



Senator Davenport pictured with Senator Anderson, Senator James, Senator Butler, Lt. Governor Cagle and the National Council of Negro Women.

Trauma Awareness Day at the Capitol

Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon) sponsored Senate Resolution 145 recognizing February 7, 2017, as Trauma Awareness Day at the Capitol. SR 145 commends Georgia’s trauma professionals, the Georgia Trauma Commission (GTC), the Georgia Trauma Foundation (GTF) and the Georgia Society of the American College of Surgeons (GSACS) for their dedication of working together to equip Georgia citizens with the proper knowledge on how to “Stop the Bleed” in the event they witness a massive bleeding situation. Trauma is the leading cause of death for people under the age of 44 and the fourth leading cause of death for all ages.



Lt. Governor Cagle, Senator Davenport and page Selina Langston of Eddie J. White Academy.

Requiring Durable Medical Equipment Suppliers to be licensed

Senate Bill 41, which was sponsored by Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford), would require the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy (GSBP) to license durable medical equipment suppliers. Applicants must apply for a license through the GSBP to maintain an office in Georgia, pay a fee and meet all safety requirements set by the board. Under SB 41, a license is effective for 36 months.



Senator Davenport Pictured with Lt. Governor and the Doctor of the Day, Dr. Todd Schmidt.

Dental Hygienists Performing Delegable Duties

Sen. Renee Unterman (R – Buford) sponsored Senate Bill 12 authorizing licensed dental hygienists to act in the place of a licensed dentist if he or she is absent. However, before performing dental duties, the dental hygienist must be given permission to do so by the dentist. The law currently states that a dentist must supervise the work of a dental hygienist while performing such duties. Senate Bill 12 was passed by substitute with a vote of 48 to 1.

Amended Fiscal Year 2017 Budget

Sen. Jack Hill (R – Reidsville) carried House bill 43, the amended Fiscal Year 2017 Budget. The Senate agreed to the House of Representatives substitute and passed HB 43 with a vote of 53 to 0. HB 43 was then transmitted to the House immediately.



Senator Davenport with page Keith Manson Jr. of Morrow High School and Lt. Governor Cagle

The Senate Honors Pinewood Atlanta Studios

Senate Resolution 217, sponsored by Sen. Marty Harbin (R – Tyrone), honors Pinewood Atlanta Studios for their innovative services and providing an economic boost for the state of Georgia. In the 2016 fiscal year, 245 television and film projects impacted Georgia’s economy by providing thousands of jobs for Georgians and promoting small businesses throughout the state. Pinewood Atlanta Studios filmed *Captain America: Civil War* which was the highest grossing film in 2016 and actively partners with the Georgia Film Academy to further the education of film.

Georgia Farm Bureau Day

Sen. John Wilkinson (R – Toccoa) sponsored Senate Resolution 82, recognizing February 15, 2017, as Georgia Farm Bureau Federation Day at the state Capitol. The Georgia Farm Bureau Federation was formed in 1937 and has grown into a diverse organization with more than 300,000 members and 158 county chapters.



Senator Davenport Pictured with two Senate Pages Joshua & Taylor Crenshaw.

If you would like to be a page, please contact Senator Davenport’s office at 404-463-5260. Students must be 12 years of age.



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