

House Resolution 1590

By: Representative Hembree of the 98<sup>th</sup>

### A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Reverend Steven Doyle Wood; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Reverend Steven Doyle Wood, the Senior Pastor at Sugar Hill United Methodist  
3 Church in Gwinnett County, is a spiritual and enthusiastic leader of his congregation where  
4 attendance is the highest among Methodist churches; and

5 WHEREAS, he was born and reared in Sandy Springs, Georgia, where he graduated from  
6 Riverview High School in 1976 before graduating from the University of Georgia in 1980  
7 with a bachelor's degree in finance; and

8 WHEREAS, upon graduation, Steve was employed as a manufacturer's representative in the  
9 office products industry before receiving God's call to enter the ministry and spread the  
10 Word; and

11 WHEREAS, Steve graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky, in  
12 1986 with a Master of Divinity, and while there he served as chaplain at the Veterans  
13 Administration Medical Center in Lexington and as Youth Pastor at the First United  
14 Methodist Church of Georgetown, Kentucky; and

15 WHEREAS, one month after graduation, Steve entered into the sacred covenant of marriage  
16 with the former LeAnne Knowles of Lebanon, Tennessee, and their union has been blessed  
17 with four beautiful children, three daughters and a son; and

18 WHEREAS, upon entering the ministry, Steve was appointed to serve as pastor in charge at  
19 Red Oak United Methodist Church in College Park, Georgia, where under his leadership the  
20 church grew into a multiracial congregation and was recognized as the District Town and  
21 Country Church of the Year and the Conference Small Membership Church of the Year; and

1 WHEREAS, his devotion and leadership led him to Douglas County to plant a new church,  
2 the New Covenant United Methodist Church, that grew from 16 to over 600 members in  
3 seven years, and through his leadership the church completed the construction of a 10,000  
4 square foot multipurpose facility and a 12,000 square foot activities building including a  
5 gymnasium; and

6 WHEREAS, under his direction and guidance, New Covenant United Methodist Church was  
7 recognized as the fastest growing congregation in the jurisdiction in 1991 and one of the top  
8 three fastest growing congregations in 1992 before being recognized as the conference leader  
9 in percentage of members received by profession of faith in 1994; and

10 WHEREAS, in furtherance of his calling, Steve moved on to his current congregation at  
11 Sugar Hill United Methodist Church where he has served for the last five years, and during  
12 this time he has served as President of the North Georgia Conference Committee on Church  
13 Development, Inc.; as a member of the Bishop's Leadership Forum and the Loan Guarantee  
14 Committee; as a member of the Gainesville District Committee on Church Development; as  
15 past President of the North Gwinnett Ministerial Alliance; and as a member of the pastoral  
16 board of the North Gwinnett Co-op; and

17 WHEREAS, his service to God and his congregation has led him to conduct various  
18 workshops and revivals at the district, conference, and jurisdictional levels as well as to serve  
19 as past Chairman of the Rome/Carrollton District Council on Ministries and as Community  
20 Spiritual Director for the Northwest Georgia Walk to Emmaus movement; and

21 WHEREAS, his devotion influences even the youngest members of society, who have been  
22 inspired and motivated through his founding of the Coalition of Wholistic Development of  
23 Youth, which conducts various ministries in the public schools in Douglas and Gwinnett  
24 counties, and his service as District Youth Coordinator and Chairman of the Board of  
25 Governors for the Atlanta/College Park District Enrichment School.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
27 the members of this body commend Reverend Steven Doyle Wood for his untiring guidance,  
28 commitment, and service to his fellow citizens and to God.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
30 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Reverend Steve Wood.