

Senate Resolution 238

By: Senator Brown of the 26th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the achievements of the Reverend Ellis Silvanus Evans, Sr., during the occasion
2 of Black History Month; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Reverend Ellis Silvanus Evans, Sr., was a legend in his own time and a bona
4 fide hero; and

5 WHEREAS, as one who laid down his personal interests in pursuit of the good of humanity,
6 Reverend Evans took full responsibility for ensuring a better quality of life for his fellow
7 citizens and a recognition of the equality and dignity of all people; and

8 WHEREAS, in furtherance of those goals, he initiated one of the greatest achievements by
9 and for African Americans in the history of the City of Macon; and

10 WHEREAS, during the period of the civil rights movement of the 1960's, Reverend Evans,
11 along with four other black preachers in the City of Macon, J.L. Key, H.R. Rancifer, Van J.
12 Malone, and E.B. Paschal, committed a courageous and inspiring act of civil disobedience
13 which sparked a flame that changed the course of history in the City of Macon and all of
14 middle Georgia; and

15 WHEREAS, they defied the laws of segregation which required black citizens to ride in the
16 back of city buses; and

17 WHEREAS, that lone act of defiance led to a city-wide boycott of the municipal transit
18 system which was spearheaded by the Bibb County Coordinating Committee of which
19 Reverend Evans was chairman; and

20 WHEREAS, Reverend Evans stood firm in his leadership, never wavering even in the face
21 of death threats and jail, and saw the boycott to a successful conclusion; and

1 WHEREAS, his fearless stand was nothing less than heroic; and

2 WHEREAS, Reverend Evans died on December 24, 2000, but the effects of his actions
3 during a time of fear and crisis nearly 40 years ago reverberate still and are worthy of our
4 salute.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body,
6 during the occasion of Black History Month, remember and honor the Reverend Ellis
7 Silvanus Evans, Sr., and celebrate the legacy of his service to the City of Macon and the State
8 of Georgia.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
10 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Reverend Ellis Silvanus
11 Evans, Sr.