

House Resolution 576

By: Representative Mills of the 21st

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Dr. James W. Austin; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Dr. James W. Austin has recently resigned as pastor of Blackshear Place Baptist
3 Church in Flowery Branch after 15 years of dynamic and committed service to accept the
4 pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Roanoke, Virginia; and
- 5 WHEREAS, this outstanding man of God works tirelessly to spread the Gospel of Jesus
6 Christ and to improve his community, state, and nation through his ministry; and
- 7 WHEREAS, under his leadership and direction, Blackshear Place Baptist Church has tripled
8 in membership to over 3,800 members; expanded its facilities; and engaged in extensive
9 evangelism and mission work locally, nationally, and internationally; and
- 10 WHEREAS, his influence has been felt throughout the state, the nation, and the world
11 through his mission activities, his sermons and speeches, his service with the Georgia Baptist
12 Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention, and his work in such organizations as the
13 Fellowship of Christian Athletes; and
- 14 WHEREAS, his passionate commitment to international missions is reflected in the increase
15 in giving by the members of Blackshear Place Baptist Church to the Southern Baptist
16 Convention's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, which increased from \$10,000.00 in 1989 to
17 \$165,864.00 in 2000, and the hundreds of volunteer missionaries which the church has sent
18 to foreign countries in the past five years, particularly to Eastern Europe and the Ukraine; and
- 19 WHEREAS, he is ably aided and supported in his ministry by his wife, Debbie, and his
20 children, Shelly, Beau, Abigail, Hannah Marie, and Leah; and
- 21 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to recognize and commend this distinguished pastor,
22 counselor, and leader for his incomparable service, commitment, and achievement.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
2 this body congratulates and commends Dr. James W. Austin for his tireless and selfless
3 service, for his many achievements, and for the positive impact his life and work has had on
4 the many persons whom he has touched around the globe through his ministry, and extends
5 to him best wishes in his new pastorate in Roanoke, Virginia.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
7 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Dr. James W. Austin.