

Senate Resolution 34EX1

By: Senator Tate of the 38<sup>th</sup>

### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the historic Chestnut Grove School of Clarke County and commending the  
2 successful efforts of citizens to restore it; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, historic Chestnut Grove School is the only surviving restored example of a one-  
4 room school house for black children in Clarke County and one of the few remaining such  
5 buildings in this state; and

6 WHEREAS, this school was established in 1896 through the joint efforts of the Clarke  
7 County Board of Education and rural black citizens after Floyd Kenney, a local black farmer,  
8 transferred the site for the school to the board, which in turn dedicated the property to "the  
9 use of the colored people of the vicinity"; and

10 WHEREAS, the local black community sacrificed for the education of their children through  
11 the contribution of not only funds but also materials, labor, and teachers for the school; and

12 WHEREAS, despite its modest accommodations, the building provided space wherein from  
13 1896 until 1956 many black children received the educational foundation which with hard  
14 work and determination led to successful careers in banking, education, government, and  
15 business, among others; and

16 WHEREAS, the schoolhouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on June  
17 28, 1984; and

18 WHEREAS, with love and appreciation for what this building represents in their own lives  
19 and the life of the community, former students of Chestnut Grove School and others have  
20 labored together to restore this historic building; and

21 WHEREAS, the efforts of these citizens was crowned with success when the restored  
22 schoolhouse was dedicated on May 5, 2001.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
2 recognize the historic Chestnut Grove School of Clarke County and commend the successful  
3 efforts of citizens to restore it.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
5 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to Mr. and Mrs. Luke Barnett, who served  
6 as co-chairs of the restoration committee, and the congregation of Chestnut Grove Baptist  
7 Church.