

Senate Resolution 721

By: Senator Jackson of the 50th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending and congratulating St. John Baptist Church on the occasion of its 135th
2 anniversary of its founding; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, founded in 1868 by a former slave, Reverend Green Hunter, St. John Baptist
4 Church is a leading church for the African American community; and

5 WHEREAS, the first structure was built on Norwood Street and moved to Athens Street, and
6 the church was at the center of a thriving African American community of black owned
7 businesses and homes; and

8 WHEREAS, the church served as an "area of unity" for the residents of the south side of
9 Gainesville; and

10 WHEREAS, pastors at St. John have served many roles, particularly in educating their
11 community and leading the Northwest Baptist School that was responsible for educating
12 black youths before they could enroll in the public school system; and

13 WHEREAS, St. John Baptist Church is widely recognized for its community leadership,
14 political initiatives, educational seminars, and special services; and

15 WHEREAS, St. John Baptist Church is also home to many "firsts" in the community that
16 include Gainesville's first two black mayors and first black county commissioner; and

17 WHEREAS, St. John Baptist Church boasts seven choirs, is a model for community outreach
18 with cultural and religious exchanges with neighboring congregations, and sponsors a wide
19 variety of multicultural activities; and

1 WHEREAS, St. John Baptist Church offers traditional services to its members and the
2 community at large including aid for the needy, meals for seniors, and social, civil, and
3 religious seminars; and

4 WHEREAS, the church is under the capable and dynamic ministry of Dr. Eugene Green, and
5 St. John envisions growing into a new sanctuary and offering additional faith based
6 opportunities to the entire community.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
8 commend and congratulate St. John Baptist Church on its 135th anniversary and express to
9 its congregation best wishes for the future.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
11 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to St. John Baptist Church of Gainesville
12 and pastor Dr. Eugene Green.