

Senate Resolution 380

By: Senators Zamarripa of the 36th, Fort of the 39th, Tate of the 38th and Reed of the 35th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Reverend Dr. James Edward Orange; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. James Edward Orange has been a leader in the Civil Rights,
3 Labor, and Anti-Poverty Movements for over four decades; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Orange was hired by the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as one of the first
5 field staffers and was instrumental in mobilizing and organizing youth during the Civil
6 Rights Movement, actions which were essential to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of
7 1964; and

8 WHEREAS, in 1968, he was responsible for bringing over 300 bus loads of participants to
9 Washington, D.C., for the Poor People's Campaign, which drew attention to the economic
10 plight of the poor in the United States and led to the establishment of the Food Stamp
11 Program; and

12 WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. James Edward Orange has coordinated numerous grassroots labor
13 campaigns throughout the south which helped lead to the passage of the Workplace Fairness
14 Bill; and

15 WHEREAS, he developed and directed regional conferences on "Organizing Workers' Rights
16 and Coalition Building," which brought together labor, religious, civil rights, women's, and
17 environmental organizations on issues of common concern; and

18 WHEREAS, he prepared and successfully argued several cases before the National Labor
19 Relations Board which resulted in major precedents in the labor movement; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Orange has been a tireless community organizer, serving on the Boards of
21 several community organizations, including the Atlanta/Fulton County Commission of

1 Children and Youth, the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute, the National Tenants
2 Organization, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference/Women; and

3 WHEREAS, he coordinated the STOP THE VIOLENCE Conference in Atlanta, Georgia,
4 and in Los Angeles, California, during the Spring of 1992, which helped to solidify the truce
5 between rival street gangs and brought the late Dr. Betty Shabazz to the Martin Luther King,
6 Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change for the first time; and

7 WHEREAS, he created and supervised the Atlanta Olympic Community Intervention Team,
8 which put 80 trained and seasoned advocates of nonviolent conflict resolution on the streets
9 of Atlanta to provide public safety monitoring and crowd control during the 1996 Atlanta
10 Olympic Games; and

11 WHEREAS, he was involved in Nelson Mandela's election as the first President of South
12 Africa after the fall of the Apartheid regime, and he has been instrumental in helping to deal
13 with the transportation needs of South Africa; and

14 WHEREAS, he is presently working as the Community & Religious Coordinator for the
15 AFL-CIO, Southern Region, in Atlanta and is serving a mediator between MARTA and the
16 Transit Union; and

17 WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. James Edward Orange was born on October 29, 1942, in
18 Birmingham, Alabama; attended the former Bishop College in Dallas, Texas; is a recipient
19 of a Doctorate degree from A.P. Clayton Theological College; is married to the former
20 Cleophas Brown; and is the father of five wonderful children.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
22 honor Reverend Dr. James Edward Orange, Civil Rights organizer and leader, Coalition
23 Leader, Labor organizer, and Anti-Poverty organizer and fighter for justice, equality, and
24 fairness in the south, the United States, and throughout the world.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
26 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Reverend Dr. James Edward Orange.