

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.