

House Resolution 524

By: Representatives Reece of the 27th, Amerson of the 9th, Rogers of the 26th, Mills of the 25th, Bridges of the 10th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the ministry and community life of Dr. Thomas R. Smiley; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas R. Smiley is celebrating 25 years of ministry and his 15th
3 anniversary as Senior Pastor of Lakewood Baptist Church of Gainesville; and
- 4 WHEREAS, the Liberty County native earned an associate's degree in biblical studies from
5 Brewton-Parker Junior College, a bachelor's degree from Blue Mountain College of
6 Mississippi, a Master of Divinity degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at
7 Wake Forest, and a Doctor of Ministry from the Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur;
8 and
- 9 WHEREAS, he has served as pastor for churches in Walnut, Mississippi; Nashville, North
10 Carolina; Tate, Georgia; and Gainesville, Georgia, since 1981; and
- 11 WHEREAS, he is active in Southern Baptist Convention initiatives, including its Festival of
12 Marriage, and has served as parenting and marriage leader, deacon minister trainer, youth
13 evangelism leader, president of the Pastor's Conference, and an executive committee
14 member; and
- 15 WHEREAS, he has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues who nominated him
16 to serve as vice president and president of the convention; and
- 17 WHEREAS, he is also active in the Tar River, Etowah, and Chattahoochee Baptist
18 Associations and has held numerous ministerial leadership roles, serving on the board for
19 Penfield Christian Home and as trustee and president-elect of the Georgia Baptist Children's
20 Home; and

1 WHEREAS, as a former radio personality and cohost of a weekly sports television show, he
2 has incorporated his devotion to ministry and the community with his work in public media;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, he conceived, led, and managed three capital campaigns for Lakewood Baptist,
5 entitled "Committed to Vision," "Fulfilling the Vision," and "For This Reason...B.U.I.L.D.,"
6 which resulted in the church's construction of a new 26 acre campus and continuing
7 renovation and expansion projects; and

8 WHEREAS, as a result of his ministry, community outreach, educational programs, and
9 church leadership, church membership has increased to over 1,800, more than doubling its
10 size under his pastorate; and

11 WHEREAS, he is active in a variety of community endeavors including coaching Little
12 League and basketball and serving as former president of Georgia Mountains Museum, a
13 board member of the YMCA, former PTA president, and a member of the airport advisory
14 committee of Gainesville; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Smiley lives, preaches, and teaches his commitment to Jesus Christ and his
16 unconditional love for people of many faiths well beyond the membership of his beloved
17 Lakewood Baptist Church.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
19 the members of this body join in honoring Dr. Thomas R. Smiley on the occasion of his 25th
20 year of ministry and his 15th anniversary as Senior Pastor of Lakewood Baptist Church of
21 Gainesville.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
23 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Dr. Thomas R. Smiley.