

Senate Resolution 1265

By: Senators Miles of the 43rd, Henson of the 41st and Butler of the 55th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Pastor James C. Ward and Antioch-Lithonia Missionary Baptist Church; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, historic Antioch-Lithonia Missionary Baptist Church is celebrating the 11th
4 anniversary of the leadership of Pastor James C. Ward, who since March, 1995, has blessed
5 this distinguished congregation with his compassionate and inspiring spiritual guidance; and

6 WHEREAS, born in Abbeville, Alabama, as one of seven children born to Willie and Viola
7 Ward, Pastor Ward was educated in the Henry County School System before graduating with
8 honors from Morehouse College; he later earned a Bachelor of Science from the University
9 of New Orleans and a Master of Divinity from the New Orleans Baptist Seminary; and

10 WHEREAS, during his time with Antioch-Lithonia Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor Ward
11 has led this vibrant faith community through many exciting developments, including the
12 building of a new facility that the congregation began to occupy in 2004 and the creation of
13 several new ministries, including a personal support ministry and a concert band; and

14 WHEREAS, outside of his exemplary service to the church, Pastor Ward's other outstanding
15 accomplishments include founding the Lithonia-East DeKalb Optimist Club, serving as
16 charter president of the board of directors for East DeKalb Boys & Girls Club, graduating
17 from Leadership DeKalb Class of 2003, and performing with the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir
18 in October, 2004; and

19 WHEREAS, Antioch-Lithonia Missionary Baptist Church is also commemorating its 135th
20 anniversary this year, celebrating its long and memorable history of serving the DeKalb
21 County community; and

22 WHEREAS, founded in 1869 by 12 faithful believers, Antioch Missionary Baptist Church
23 was the first African American Baptist church in Lithonia and in the county; and

1 WHEREAS, over the years, several of Atlanta's most famous preachers have been affiliated
2 with the church, including Rev. John C. Centers, the first moderator of the Atlanta Baptist
3 Association, and Rev. Adam Daniel Williams, the maternal grandfather of Dr. Martin Luther
4 King, Jr.; and

5 WHEREAS, considering the many extraordinary contributions Pastor Ward and Antioch
6 Missionary Baptist Church have made to Georgia, it is abundantly fitting and proper for this
7 body to appropriately recognize this exceptional religious leader and his venerable church.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
9 join to honor Pastor James C. Ward and the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church for their
10 outstanding service to the Atlanta community; to congratulate Pastor Ward on his 11th
11 anniversary with the church; to congratulate Antioch Missionary Baptist Church on its 135th
12 anniversary; and to thank both Pastor Ward and Antioch Missionary Baptist Church for their
13 invaluable contributions to Georgia.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
15 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Pastor James C. Ward and the Antioch
16 Missionary Baptist Church.