

Senate Resolution 255

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Representative Calvin Smyre and congratulating him on the
2 occasion of his election as the president of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators;
3 and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, for his massive contributions to the City of Columbus, the State of Georgia, and
5 the United States, Representative Calvin Smyre has been elected to serve as the president of
6 the National Black Caucus of State Legislators; and

7 WHEREAS, he was born on May 17, 1947, in Columbus, Georgia, and attended Fort Valley
8 State University, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and minoring
9 in Accounting; and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Smyre's career path has taken him from his humble beginnings
11 as a community organizer and director of the "War on Poverty" program in Columbus to his
12 current position as a prominent national figure in the world of finance, acting as the executive
13 vice president of corporate affairs for Synovus Financial Corporation, a diversified financial
14 services company based in Columbus with more than \$30 billion in assets, and as the
15 chairman and CEO of the Synovus Foundation; and

16 WHEREAS, Representative Smyre has served as a member of several legislative
17 committees, including the House Committee on Appropriations, which is responsible for
18 dividing up the state's budget, and the House Committee on Industrial Relations and has
19 served as chairman of the House Committee on Rules and the University System of Georgia
20 Committee, which has oversight responsibility for the state's 34 public colleges and
21 universities; and

22 WHEREAS, Representative Smyre sits on the Board of Trustees of the Medical College of
23 Georgia Foundation, the Morehouse School of Medicine, the Jack D. Hughston Foundation,
24 and the Fort Valley State University Foundation, among others; and

1 WHEREAS, Representative Smyre has been selected as a delegate to attend the past seven
2 Democratic National Conventions and has provided his expertise to a number of political
3 campaigns on both state and national levels, including service as a southern campaign
4 advisor for President Jimmy Carter in 1976 and deputy campaign director in Kentucky in
5 1980, senior advisor in the campaigns of Governor Joe Frank Harris and Governor Zell
6 Miller, campaign director of the Georgia Democratic Party Unified Campaign Committee
7 in 1988 and 1990, cochairman of President Clinton's campaign in Georgia in 1992 and 1996,
8 and chairman of the Georgia Democratic Party Coordinated Campaign in 2000; and

9 WHEREAS, Representative Smyre has been instrumental in authoring legislation for the
10 recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., instituting his birthday as a state holiday; for the
11 creation of the Georgia Dome, home of the Atlanta Falcons; and for the historic creation of
12 a new Georgia state flag; and

13 WHEREAS, he was elected chairman of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus in 1979; was
14 elected to the Democratic National Committee in 1985, becoming the first African American
15 elected official from Georgia to serve in this post; and in 1986 was appointed administrative
16 floor leader by Governor Harris, becoming the first African American to hold this position;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Representative Smyre has been a heroic and generous figure to the City of
19 Columbus, as he was instrumental in the construction of the \$62 million Columbus
20 RiverCenter, served as President of the Liberty Theatre Cultural Center, and has been
21 honored twice as "Citizen of the Year"; and

22 WHEREAS, his election as the president of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators
23 marks one more moment in a long list of amazing victories, victories that Representative
24 Smyre unhesitatingly shares with the citizens of Georgia and the United States, and his life
25 will continue to be an inspiration for generations to come.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
27 commend Representative Calvin Smyre for an outstanding career in public service and
28 extend to him the sincerest best wishes for his future.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
30 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Representative Calvin Smyre.