

Senate Resolution 540

By: Senators Henson of the 41st, Adelman of the 42nd, Fort of the 39th, Tate of the 38th, Brown of the 26th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending, recognizing, and congratulating Dr. Eugene P. Walker, Ph.D., on the occasion
2 of his retirement; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Eugene P. Walker is a man with a great passion for learning, a man of
4 conviction, a man of outstanding moral character, and a man with tremendous compassion
5 for others; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Eugene P. Walker is a native of Thomaston, Georgia, residing in DeKalb
7 County since 1969, earning his Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science at Clark College
8 in 1958, a certificate in Southern History at Johns Hopkins University in 1968, a Master of
9 Arts degree in History at Atlanta University in 1969, and a Rockefeller Foundation
10 Fellowship and Ph.D. in History at Duke University in 1978; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Walker began his career in public service as a history and social studies
12 teacher at Drake High School in his hometown of Thomaston, Georgia, while also coaching
13 its basketball and football teams; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Walker continued his service to the public by teaching history at Clark
15 College, later becoming vice president of Personnel and Community Relations at DeKalb
16 College, and then advancing to the position of executive vice president at the DeKalb
17 Technical Institute; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Walker was elected and served with great distinction as the Senator for the
19 43rd Georgia Senatorial District from 1984 to 1992 where, as the first person of color to hold
20 the position of Majority Whip, he was instrumental in garnering support and votes for major
21 legislation in education, health care, and economic development; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Walker was appointed by Governor Zell Miller to the Department of
23 Juvenile Justice as its commissioner in 1995, where he served until 1999 when Governor Roy

1 Barnes appointed him to the Parole Board, where he served until his retirement on December
2 31, 2006; and

3 WHEREAS, his commitment to the community is demonstrated by his service on numerous
4 civic, community, and professional groups including the Georgia and National Associations
5 of Blacks in Criminal Justice, the American Correctional Association, and the Parole
6 Association of Georgia, as well as his service as chairman of the Board of Directors of the
7 DeKalb County Development Authority, chairman of the West Care-Georgia Children's
8 Center Board of Directors, and the NAACP, where he serves as a lifetime member; and

9 WHEREAS, Eugene Walker is a faithful member of the Greenforest Community Baptist
10 Church and a devoted husband to his wife of 45 years, Patricia Carter Walker, and a loving
11 father, grandfather, and great-grandfather to their three children, five grandchildren, and two
12 great-grandchildren; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Eugene P. Walker is a public servant of outstanding ability, determination,
14 and deep social conscience, and it is only fitting and proper that one who has contributed so
15 much to this state and its citizens be appropriately recognized.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
17 join in recognizing Dr. Eugene P. Walker for an outstanding career of public service,
18 commending him for his many generous contributions to the people of Georgia, and
19 congratulating him on his well-earned retirement.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
21 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Dr. Eugene P. Walker.