

Senate Resolution 1153

By: Senators Fort of the 39th and Reed of the 35th

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing New Grant Chapel AME Church on the occasion of its 114th anniversary; and  
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in the early 1880's, before East Point, Georgia, was incorporated as a city, the  
4 black families held worship celebrations under a brush arbor near the Southern Woods  
5 Cresote Company; and

6 WHEREAS, these original worshipers decided to organize the first African Methodist  
7 Episcopal Church in East Point, Georgia, and in 1894 the Grant Chapel African Methodist  
8 Episcopal Church was officially organized and named in honor of Bishop Abraham Grant;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Reverend Glenn was pastor during this early period, and under his leadership  
11 a building for worship and a school for formal education were constructed, and in 1912,  
12 Grant Chapel moved to the top of Bayard Street, where the members built a white  
13 plank-batten board church with Gothic design doors and windows; and

14 WHEREAS, Grant Chapel AME Church during this period became an even greater force  
15 with several pastors and members engaging in the mission and ministry of the church; and

16 WHEREAS, Reverend Thomas R. Morgan, who was an experienced carpenter and builder,  
17 led the people to erect a new worship facility, with the members purchasing the materials and  
18 Pastor Morgan working diligently with his own hands along with others; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1961, Reverend Hosie Edward Terrell was appointed to Grant Chapel AME  
20 Church and served for the next 27 years with distinction as a pastor, stable family man, civil  
21 rights leader, community activist, connectional churchman, and church builder; and

1 WHEREAS, under his leadership the church grew, and in 1971, a beautiful modern state of  
2 the art sanctuary was erected, and the church was renamed New Grant Chapel African  
3 Methodist Episcopal Church; and

4 WHEREAS, from 1988 through 1997, Reverend Ben Fortson served faithfully, after which  
5 Reverend Dr. Roosevelt Morris was appointed to serve New Grant from 1997 until 2000  
6 when Reverend Brian A. Hart was appointed, staying until 2004; and

7 WHEREAS, Reverend Spencer Lamar Booker became the pastor in 2004 and under his  
8 leadership the church continues to grow spiritually and in size with renovations such as a  
9 balcony for more seating, a sacristy stewardess room, a refurbished fellowship hall and  
10 corridors, and a new roof, windows, kitchen, conference room, secretary/finance commission  
11 suite, and pastor's office; and

12 WHEREAS, the services at New Grant Chapel AME Church are heard every Saturday  
13 morning on 1260 AM WTJH, and the book is still open – God is not finished developing the  
14 ministry of New Grant Church.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
16 join together to recognize New Grant Chapel AME Church on the occasion of its 114th  
17 anniversary and commend its members on their exemplary service to their community and  
18 this state.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
20 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to New Grant Chapel AME Church.