

House Resolution 1706

By: Representative Marin of the 96<sup>th</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Bishop William L. Sheals; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Bishop William L. Sheals has diligently and conscientiously devoted his time,  
3 talents, and energy for three decades to uplifting and inspiring the congregation of Norcross,  
4 Georgia's, Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church as senior pastor; and

5 WHEREAS, through his vision and direction, Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church has  
6 grown from a small rural church to a suburban mega church, uplifting the community like  
7 the light of Bethlehem and serving as a spiritual leader and place for fellowship; and

8 WHEREAS, Bishop Sheals helped transform a 32 acre junkyard into a community complex  
9 called the City of Hope, which houses a child development center, youth center, senior  
10 citizen center, adult fitness center, retail stores and shops, a federal credit union, and a fully  
11 accredited Christian academy for grades K through 12 and an accredited Bible college; and

12 WHEREAS, affectionately known as "Papa Sheals" by his congregation, Bishop Sheals has  
13 trained 12 ministers on their righteous path to pastorhood, has written more than seven  
14 inspirational books, and serves as bishop and overseer for the Light House Ministries, a  
15 nonprofit ministry established to mentor, train, and equip pastors for the ministry; and

16 WHEREAS, Bishop Sheals has been recognized with numerous honors and accolades,  
17 including a Presidential Special Citizens Award for "Founding Director of Ministers Against  
18 Drugs," a Martin Luther King, Jr., Drum Major Award, and the Gwinnett County NAACP  
19 Lifetime Achievement Award; and

20 WHEREAS, the important ministries he has created while leading the flock of Hopewell  
21 Missionary Baptist Church include Men of Valor, Ambassadors for Christ, Disaster Relief,  
22 Employment Network, Entrepreneur Group, Missions Ministry, Plug-In Ministry, Prison  
23 Ministry, Spirits of Hope, Recreation/Athletic Ministry, Brothers and Sisters in Christ

24 (BASIC) Unmarried Ministry, Men of Faith Men's Ministry, Marriage Covenant, Pre-Marital  
25 Ministry, and Parent Teacher Student Covenant (PTSC) Group; and

26 WHEREAS, he has demonstrated his commitment to teaching the Gospel, witnessing Christ  
27 through word and deed, and addressing the physical, psychological, intellectual, and spiritual  
28 needs of others; and

29 WHEREAS, the unmatched spiritual assistance offered by Bishop Sheals is a source of  
30 strength and direction for persons in all walks of life and from all economic strata; and

31 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this enduring example of God's message  
32 of peace and love be recognized and congratulated for his innumerable good works rendered  
33 on behalf of persons in need.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
35 the members of this body commend Bishop William L. Sheals for his 30 years of service to  
36 the Lord, the congregation of Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church, and his community.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
38 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Bishop William L. Sheals.