

## House Resolution 1963

By: Representatives Collins of the 27<sup>th</sup>, Rogers of the 26<sup>th</sup>, and Mills of the 25<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Reverend Dr. Tom Smiley on the occasion of his 20th pastoral  
2 anniversary with Lakewood Baptist Church; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Tom Smiley has demonstrated his commitment to teaching the  
4 Gospel, witnessing Christ through word and deed, and addressing the physical,  
5 psychological, intellectual, and spiritual needs of others; and

6 WHEREAS, Reverend Smiley was called by the Lord 20 years ago to lead the congregation  
7 of Lakewood Baptist Church in Gainesville, Georgia; and

8 WHEREAS, a Georgia native, Reverend Smiley served as pastor for churches in Mississippi  
9 and Georgia before earning a doctoral degree from Columbia Theological Seminary; and

10 WHEREAS, his vision and direction have helped Lakewood Baptist Church grow in size and  
11 influence, uplifting the community like the light of Bethlehem and serving as a spiritual  
12 leader and a place for fellowship; and

13 WHEREAS, over the past two decades, Reverend Smiley has established numerous  
14 programs and workshops which have improved the spiritual and educational growth of  
15 Lakewood Baptist Church and the surrounding community; and

16 WHEREAS, he has overseen the building of a new campus and chapel, established the  
17 acclaimed Kid's Cove building and worship center, and led missions to Croatia, Guatemala  
18 City, and numerous destinations throughout the United States; and

19 WHEREAS, whether the task is preparing a sermon, visiting the sick, counseling the  
20 troubled, baptizing a new believer, or acting as a theologian, educator, administrator, or  
21 humanitarian, Reverend Smiley serves as a shining example of God's righteous path; and

22 WHEREAS, he is an online ministry host, a radio host, a teacher, the author of two books,  
23 a counselor, and the host of a variety of community based activities, meetings, and special  
24 events; and

25 WHEREAS, the unmatched spiritual assistance offered by Reverend Smiley is a source of  
26 strength and direction for persons in all walks of life and from all economic strata; and

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

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
31 the members of this body congratulate Reverend Dr. Tom Smiley on the wonderful occasion  
32 of his 20th pastoral anniversary with Lakewood Baptist Church and extend best wishes for  
33 many more years of successful fellowship and leadership.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
35 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Reverend Dr. Tom Smiley.