

Senate Resolution 504

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Reed of the 35th, Jones of the 10th, Tate of the 38th, Fort of the 39th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Ebenezer Baptist Church was founded in 1886 by Reverend John A. Parker, and
4 the original site of the church was a box-like structure on Airline Street; and

5 WHEREAS, in 1894, Reverend Alfred Daniel Williams became head pastor and among the
6 first of his many great achievements on behalf of the church was to increase the congregation
7 size and build a new church on McGruder Street; and

8 WHEREAS, Reverend Williams' daughter, Alberta Christine Williams, married Reverend
9 Martin Luther King, Sr., and their loving union produced Christine King Farris, Alfred
10 Daniel Williams King, and Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

11 WHEREAS, Reverend King, Sr., joined Reverend Williams as copastor of Ebenezer Baptist
12 Church, and the two worked tirelessly for equal rights for their parishioners as well as the
13 community, by leading efforts to build the first high school in Atlanta for African Americans
14 and equalizing salaries for teachers; and

15 WHEREAS, two of the King children, Alfred and Martin Luther, Jr., served as copastors of
16 Ebenezer Baptist Church alongside their father; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s work with the church led to his worldwide
18 prophetic ministry and role in the Civil Rights movement, and Alfred Daniel Williams King
19 founded Ebenezer's Children's Chapel, dedicated to biblical education, spiritual enrichment,
20 and oratorical training for congregation members ages five through 12; and

21 WHEREAS, in 1975, Reverend Dr. Joseph Lawrence Roberts, Jr., began his 30 year service
22 to Ebenezer Baptist Church, and under his direction, the church added more than 2,000
23 members; and

24 WHEREAS, during Reverend Roberts' years with Ebenezer Baptist Church he launched
25 many community programs including a teen mother's ministry, a tutoring program,
26 counseling services, a senior's day care center, and a food cooperative; and

27 WHEREAS, upon Reverend Roberts' retirement in 2005, Reverend Raphael Gamaliel
28 Warnock began his pastorate with Ebenezer Baptist Church; and

29 WHEREAS, a pastor with deep scholarly interests, Reverend Warnock brings with him rich
30 experience from his time as Associate Minister at Birmingham's Sixth Avenue Baptist
31 Church, Assistant Pastor of Harlem's Abyssinian Baptist Church, and Senior Pastor of
32 Baltimore's Douglas Memorial Community Church; and

33 WHEREAS, Reverend Warnock provides the congregation with a holistic ministry
34 perspective and sets the tone for a ministry that evangelizes the sinner; and

35 WHEREAS, the history of Ebenezer Baptist Church is of great significance and importance
36 to the State of Georgia as well as the nation and is worthy of appropriate recognition.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
38 GEORGIA that the members of this body commend Ebenezer Baptist Church for its rich
39 history and traditions and recognize the many outstanding contributions made by its members
40 to their community, state, and country.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
42 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Ebenezer Baptist Church.