

House Resolution 888

By: Representatives Richardson of the 19th, Burkhalter of the 50th, and Keen of the 179th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Dr. R. Kirby Godsey; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Dr. R. Kirby Godsey has long been recognized by the citizens of this state for
3 the vital role that he has played in academic enrichment and his deep personal commitment
4 to the education of the students of Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Godsey has diligently and conscientiously devoted a lifetime of his talents
6 and energy as a champion of higher education for 27 years as the President and CEO of
7 Mercer University before he was named Chancellor in 2006; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Godsey earned a bachelor's degree from Samford University, a master's
9 degree in philosophy from the University of Alabama, a master of divinity degree and a
10 doctorate in theology from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and a doctoral degree
11 in philosophy from Tulane University; and

12 WHEREAS, during his tenure at Mercer University, the school's enrollment has grown to
13 more than 7,300 with endowments reaching more than \$200 million and planned giving
14 commitments earning the university an additional \$200 million; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Godsey's vision and leadership have allowed the university to prosper to
16 great heights, with seven of Mercer's 11 schools and colleges being established during his
17 service to the university; and

18 WHEREAS, his partnerships across the state and nation have made Mercer University a
19 leading institution and his dedication has been recognized by *Georgia Trend* magazine as one
20 of Georgia's most influential leaders; and

21 WHEREAS, devoted to uplifting education across the country, Dr. Godsey has served as a
22 member of the Executive Council of the College Commission for the Southern Association

23 of Colleges and Schools and on the Executive Committee of the National Association of
24 Independent Colleges and Universities; and

25 WHEREAS, Dr. Godsey's numerous awards and honors include a Distinguished Leadership
26 Award from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the prestigious title of
27 Chief Executive Officer of the Year in 2002 from the Council for Advancement and Support
28 of Education; and

29 WHEREAS, his significant organizational and leadership talents, his remarkable patience
30 and diplomacy, his keen sense of vision, and his sensitivity to the needs of the students of
31 this state have earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and associates; and

32 WHEREAS, for the last two years, Dr. Godsey has served as the Senior Policy Advisor to
33 the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

34 WHEREAS, the Speaker has received invaluable advice and counsel from Dr. Godsey and
35 counts him as a dear friend; and

36 WHEREAS, in recognition of his many contributions to this state, it is abundantly fitting and
37 proper for this body to honor the extraordinary commitment and accomplishments of this
38 outstanding individual.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
40 the members of this body heartily and gratefully commend Dr. R. Kirby Godsey for his
41 sacrifice, foresight, accomplishment, and contributions on behalf of education in Georgia and
42 for the positive influence he has had upon the lives and futures of countless young people in
43 this state.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
45 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Dr. R. Kirby Godsey.