

Senate Resolution 814

By: Senators Seay of the 34th, Jones of the 10th, Fort of the 39th, Butler of the 55th, Brown of the 26th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Reverend Dr. Joseph E. Lowery upon being awarded the
2 Presidential Medal of Freedom; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Joseph E. Lowery is one of the State of Georgia's most
4 distinguished citizens, a nationally recognized preacher, and a renowned civil rights leader;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, on August 12, 2009, Reverend Lowery earned this nation's highest civilian
7 award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, from the first African American president of the
8 United States; and

9 WHEREAS, the Medal of Freedom was established by President Harry Truman in 1945 to
10 recognize civilians for their efforts during World War II and was later resumed by President
11 John F. Kennedy as a way to bestow honor and recognition for distinguished non-military
12 service to this country; and

13 WHEREAS, upon awarding Reverend Lowery the Medal of Freedom, President Barack
14 Obama described Reverend Lowery as "a giant of the Moses generation of civil rights leaders"
15 and credited his work as making it possible for a black man to become president; and

16 WHEREAS, Reverend Lowery had the distinct honor of delivering President Obama's
17 inauguration benediction in January 2009; and

18 WHEREAS, as an iconic leader of the civil rights movement in America, Reverend Lowery
19 was a founder and long-time president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and
20 sacrificed his personal safety and freedom in order to ensure equal rights for all Americans;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Reverend Lowery currently runs Coalition for the Peoples' Agenda, an Atlanta
23 based group which holds voter registration drives and advocates change in government in
24 order to bring about social and racial equality; and

25 WHEREAS, Reverend Lowery has brought honor and esteem to his family, the State of
26 Georgia, and this nation through his award and his contributions to civil rights; and

27 WHEREAS, it is appropriately fitting and proper that this body recognize the tremendous
28 impact Reverend Lowery has had as a civil rights advocate and express its appreciation for
29 his years of sacrifice and commitment.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
31 commend Reverend Dr. Joseph E. Lowery for his contributions to this nation and
32 congratulate him on being awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Reverend Dr. Joseph E. Lowery.