

House Resolution 551

By: Representatives Jackson of the 142nd, Epps of the 140th, Williams of the 165th, Mitchell of the 88th, Talton of the 145th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the contributions of members of the clergy in Georgia, recognizing March 14,
2 2011, as the tenth annual Clergy Day at the Georgia State Capitol, and inviting members of
3 the clergy to be recognized by the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Faith and Clergy Commission was formed on March 1, 2010, with the stated
5 purpose to express appreciation and gratitude to members of the clergy and faith
6 communities and conduct an annual gathering at the capitol during the legislative session;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Georgia is most fortunate to have a very diverse community of religious faiths
9 represented in its local communities throughout this great state; and

10 WHEREAS, the spiritual leaders of these various faiths provide tremendous comfort, hope,
11 support, and joy to individuals and families as they proceed through life, helping them to find
12 God's direction for the road ahead; and

13 WHEREAS, through their teachings the clergy have inspired spiritual understanding and
14 peace to persons from all walks of life and for generations reached out to nurture persons in
15 need of refuge and support along life's journey; and

16 WHEREAS, great religious leaders have ministered to Georgia's communities, actively
17 promoting improved community relations among its people and personally demonstrating
18 their steadfast commitment to social justice for all Georgians; and

19 WHEREAS, for each house of worship, its leader guides his flock, like the shepherd his
20 sheep, through prayer as his own supplication to God for guidance and through the faithful
21 prayers of those under his leadership; and

22 WHEREAS, we owe a depth of gratitude to those who faithfully serve God and His people
23 as dedicated and honorable ministers to their communities, often neglecting their own
24 personal needs to give us guidance and comfort, in good times and in trials; and

25 WHEREAS, in his letter to the church at Thessalonica, Paul instructed the people "to know
26 them who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, to esteem them very highly in love
27 for their work's sake," such wise words having application to all faiths as it is incumbent
28 upon all of us to acknowledge the great deeds and sacrifices of our ministers and to express
29 our deepest appreciation for their service.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 the members of this body commend Georgia's clergy for their community leadership;
32 recognize March 14, 2011, as the tenth annual Clergy Day at the Georgia State Capitol; and
33 invite devout leaders of the clergy to be recognized by the House of Representatives at a date
34 and time to be designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.