

House Resolution 588

By: Representatives Atwood of the 179th, Lane of the 167th, Sims of the 169th, Jacobs of the 80th, Evans of the 40th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Temple Beth Tefilloh; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Jewish presence in Georgia can be documented from as early as 1733; and
- 3 WHEREAS, five months after General Oglethorpe founded the Georgia colony, a ship
4 carrying 42 Jews from Spain docked at the port of Savannah; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Temple Mickve Israel was founded in Savannah and served communities in the
6 coastal region; and
- 7 WHEREAS, in 1878, a Jewish merchant, Jacob Michelson, gathered Jewish families from
8 Darien and Brunswick to celebrate Brunswick's first High Holy Days, and Temple Mickve
9 Israel provided a Torah for the community's worship, a Torah still used to this day; and
- 10 WHEREAS, in December of 1886, a group of 21 men, led by its first president, Max Hirsch,
11 convened to form a Hebrew Congregation and sacred place of worship and founded Temple
12 Beth Tefilloh; and
- 13 WHEREAS, on November 7, 1890, Temple Beth Tefilloh's sanctuary was dedicated by
14 Rabbi Issac Mayer Wise, the founder of Reform Judaism in America; and
- 15 WHEREAS, the Sisterhood of the Temple participated in Red Cross projects during World
16 War I and rendered financial aid to the Jews of Poland; and
- 17 WHEREAS, in 1942, the Temple's Sisterhood focused their full attention on war needs by
18 making bandages, knitting blankets, watching for airplanes, aiding the Red Cross, and
19 serving as hostesses at the USO; and

20 WHEREAS, the seeds which were sown by the loving and humble efforts of the devoted
21 original worshipers of Temple Beth Tefilloh have blossomed, establishing a rich tradition
22 and history; and

23 WHEREAS, over the years, Temple Beth Tefilloh has grown under the divine direction of
24 numerous rabbis, including the Rabbi Emeritus of the Temple in Atlanta, Alvin Sugerman,
25 Rabbi Emeritus Saul Rubin, and current Rabbi, Sol Greenberg; and

26 WHEREAS, the congregation of this temple has compiled an unparalleled record of
27 constructive, compassionate, and humanitarian service which it demonstrates daily through
28 open minds, open hearts, and open doors; and

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

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
33 the members of this body recognize the rich history of Temple Beth Tefilloh, commend its
34 125 years of dedicated service to the Lord and community, and extend their warmest best
35 wishes for its continued growth and success.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
37 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Temple Beth Tefilloh.