

## Senate Resolution 618

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Tate of the 38th, Davenport of the 44th, Fort of the 39th, Brown of the 26th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Reopening Celebration for the Heritage Sanctuary at the  
2 Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, was founded in 1886  
4 during the Reconstruction Era in the South; and

5 WHEREAS, in its first year, the original box-like structure housed approximately 65  
6 members, and the church continued to grow and expand until it reached its current location  
7 at 407 Auburn Avenue in 1914; and

8 WHEREAS, one of the many notable accomplishments of the church was the building and  
9 completion of the Horizon Sanctuary which was originally dedicated in 1999; and

10 WHEREAS, for the first time since the post-1970 modification, visitors to the Martin Luther  
11 King, Jr., National Historic Site will be able to experience the Historic Ebenezer Baptist  
12 Church Heritage Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall as they appeared during the time when Dr.  
13 Martin Luther King, Jr., returned to Atlanta to co-pastor with his father; and

14 WHEREAS, Ebenezer Baptist Church gained national significance through connections to  
15 Dr. King and the role the church played in the Civil Rights Movement; and

16 WHEREAS, the Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church serves as the anchor of the Martin Luther  
17 King, Jr., Historic Site and Preservation District, and provides visitors with a connection to  
18 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Movement he led, and the Dream he inspired; and

19 WHEREAS, the restoration of the Heritage Sanctuary was made possible through donations  
20 of many individuals and corporations and with the aid of a Save America's Treasures grant;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the completion of this restoration project furthers the mission of the Martin  
23 Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site, which is to preserve and protect the legacy of one  
24 of the most influential Americans of the 20th century.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
26 acknowledge the importance of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Historic Site and Preservation  
27 District as a world treasure, embracing humanity in an environment that inspires peace,  
28 justice, and equality.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
30 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church and  
31 the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site and Preservation District.