

## Senate Resolution 585

By: Senators Crosby of the 13th, Harper of the 7th, Jackson of the 24th, Stone of the 23rd and Burke of the 11th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Reverend W. Ches Smith III; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens  
3 with the passing of Reverend W. Ches Smith III on March 2, 2013; and

4 WHEREAS, Reverend Smith graduated from the renowned Boys' High School of Atlanta  
5 and then went on to Mercer University, where he remained for a short while before joining  
6 the United States Coast Guard; his unit was later fused into the United States Army where  
7 he spent four years serving as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty; and

8 WHEREAS, upon leaving the armed forces, Reverend Smith returned to college and received  
9 his Bachelor of Arts degree from Emory University in 1957, and then he went on to  
10 Southeastern Baptist Seminary from which he earned his Bachelor of Divinity, Master of  
11 Theology, and Doctor of Ministry degrees; and

12 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith and the conviction that others should always  
13 have the opportunity to further their education, Reverend Smith taught ministers on Fridays  
14 at the Norman Bible Institute for 25 years, served as a trustee of Tift College and Mercer  
15 University, and originally voiced an idea to create what is now known as the McAfee School  
16 of Theology in Atlanta; and

17 WHEREAS, Reverend Smith served several different pastorates and served as an interim  
18 pastor of various Baptist churches throughout his life, yet he always retained his deep  
19 involvement with Tifton Baptist Church, where he served as pastor for 29 years and where,  
20 upon his retirement in 1995, he was named Pastor Emeritus; and

21 WHEREAS, Reverend Smith was united in love and marriage to Mrs. Dorothy Walters  
22 Smith and was blessed with five remarkable children, William "Skip" Smith IV and his wife  
23 Judy, Dr. Carol Goff and her husband Rodney, Dr. Karen Smith and her husband Paul, Lisa

24 Daughtrey, and Kathy and Milton Martin; 13 wonderful grandchildren; and nine cherished  
25 great-grandchildren; and

26 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern  
27 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his  
28 family and friends were admired by others; and

29 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Reverend W. Ches Smith III will long be  
30 remembered for his love of family and friendship, and this loyal servant of the Lord and  
31 friend will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
33 join in honoring the life and memory of Reverend W. Ches Smith III and express their  
34 deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
36 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Reverend W. Ches Smith  
37 III.