

Senate Resolution 688

By: Senator James of the 35th

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating and commending Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church on its 146th  
2 anniversary; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in Greene County,  
4 Georgia, in 1867, a tumultuous time following the enactment of the Emancipation  
5 Proclamation, the ratification of the 13th Amendment outlawing slavery, and the end of the  
6 Civil War; and

7 WHEREAS, previously held captive by the hideous yoke of slavery, Ebenezer's founders  
8 were free men and women who sought to experience a new freedom in the Lord beyond what  
9 fragments of Christianity they had been allowed to experience from the back pews and  
10 balconies of local white churches; and

11 WHEREAS, William Bryan, a white man, deeded the church one acre of land at its present  
12 location, known as Land Creek, dating back to April 30, 1871; and

13 WHEREAS, Ebenezer has played an important role in the educational and religious lives of  
14 African Americans in Greene County; in past years, the church building was used as a school  
15 and the first parsonage was built behind the church under the pastorate of Reverend W.P.  
16 Carter; and

17 WHEREAS, throughout the rich history of this distinguished place of worship, there have  
18 been several instances of weather damage to the church building and so it has become a  
19 tradition that each pastor attempt to add to the completion of the building; and

20 WHEREAS, the church stands as an inspiration to the people of Greene County, a church  
21 founded to provide newly liberated African Americans a place to freely worship that has  
22 endured as a beacon of hope and ministry throughout the years; and

23 WHEREAS, the members of Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church are proud of the  
24 great organized body of Christian believers upon whom the goodness of the Lord has  
25 showered many blessings, and appreciate the efforts of those who have served and helped  
26 along the way and those who continue the work of inspiring those coming along; and

27 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to recognize and commend Ebenezer African Methodist  
28 Episcopal Church for its service and its diligent pursuit of its mission and purpose of  
29 advancing the kingdom of Jesus Christ through public worship, preaching the Gospel,  
30 personal evangelism, Christian education, and ministry to the needs of people of all walks  
31 of life.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
33 congratulate and commend Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church for its 146 years  
34 of exemplary service and dedication to the Gospel and the community it serves and extend  
35 best wishes for continued success in its ministries and activities.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
37 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal  
38 Church.