

Senate Resolution 842

By: Senators James of the 35th, Harbison of the 15th, Jones of the 10th, Stone of the 23rd, Davenport of the 44th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Representative Calvin Smyre for his induction into the International Civil
2 Rights Walk of Fame; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on Friday, January 24, 2014, Representative Calvin Smyre will be added to the
4 International Civil Rights Walk of Fame during the tenth annual Trumpet Awards at the
5 Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site; and

6 WHEREAS, the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame was created in 2004 to give
7 recognition to the foot soldiers of justice who sacrificed and struggled to make equality a
8 reality for all; Ms. Xernona Clayton, founder and executive producer of the Trumpet Awards,
9 states, "This walk of fame tells a phenomenal story about the legacy of this nation. It is a
10 permanent testimony to those who have dedicated themselves to progress of our people and
11 to this nation"; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Smyre earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Fort Valley
13 State University (FVSU), majoring in business administration with a minor in accounting;
14 and he serves as chairman of the FVSU Foundation Board of Trustees and is a former
15 national president of the FVSU National Alumni Association; and

16 WHEREAS, Representative Smyre acted as a community organizer and director of the "War
17 on Poverty" program in Columbus, Georgia, and currently serves as the executive
18 vice president of Corporate External Affairs at Synovus Financial Corp.; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative Smyre was elected at the age of 27, and he is now a 40 year
20 legislative veteran, Dean of the House, and serves on the most important panels of the House:
21 Appropriations, Rules, and Higher Education; and

22 WHEREAS, Representative Smyre has paved the way for civil rights in his community and
23 abroad and has a distinguished legislative record; while serving as Floor Leader, he authored

24 the legislation making Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, birthday a state holiday and the
25 legislation creating the Georgia Dome, home of the Atlanta Falcons; and he was also
26 instrumental in passing the HOPE constitutional amendment and was co-sponsor of the
27 HOPE Scholarship Program and the historic legislation creating a new Georgia State Flag;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, nationally, he is the immediate past president of the National Black Caucus of
30 State Legislators Foundation, and he is also a former member of the Financial Services
31 Roundtable and Democratic National Committee; and

32 WHEREAS, when inducted into the Walk of Fame, Representative Smyre will join one of
33 the most prestigious lists of honorees in the nation, including former United States Presidents
34 Lyndon B. Johnson, Jimmy Carter, and Bill Clinton; civil rights era heroes Reverend David
35 Abernathy, Sr., Medgar Evers, and Justice Thurgood Marshall; and many others.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
37 recognize the many contributions of civil rights progress advanced by Representative Calvin
38 Smyre and commend him for being inducted into the International Civil Rights Walk of
39 Fame.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
41 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Representative Calvin Smyre.