

House Resolution 1291

By: Representative Brooks of the 55th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Reverend Doctor Marshall Stenson, Jr.; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
4 with the passing of Reverend Doctor Marshall Stenson, Jr., on December 19, 2013; and

5 WHEREAS, he was born on May 3, 1936, the fifth of 13 children of the Reverend and Mrs.
6 Marshall Stenson; and

7 WHEREAS, he graduated from Troup County High School with honors, attended Clark
8 College where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree, attended Theological Seminary where
9 he was awarded Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Divinity degrees, and attended Carver
10 Bible College, Atlanta, Georgia, where he received his Doctor of Divinity degree; and

11 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Reverend Stenson devoted his life in service
12 to the Lord; he first served as Pastor of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in Newnan, Georgia, and
13 was later called to serve as the Pastor of First Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia, during
14 which time he became a chief ombudsman for the Civil Rights Movement, hosting Dr.
15 Martin Luther King, Jr., and other civil rights leaders as they marched through the Central
16 Georgia area; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1969, Reverend Stenson was called to pastor St. Luke Baptist Church and
18 has continued as the shepherd of St. Luke for the past 44 years; and

19 WHEREAS, he has been recognized for his service to several organizations, including a
20 commendation for Outstanding Christian Service to the Sixth District of the General
21 Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, the Charles Emerson Boddie Merit Award for
22 excellence in Christian Education by the American Baptist Theological Seminary, and the

23 Marshall Stenson Hall, a 33 room dormitory named in his honor on the campus of Bryant's
24 Theological Seminary; and

25 WHEREAS, he was most recently honored as the first annual MLK, Jr., Drum Major for
26 Justice, and he was also honored for more than 50 years of service to the ministry by the
27 National Baptist Convention, Inc.; and

28 WHEREAS, Reverend Stenson was united in love and marriage to Dr. Mary Banks Stenson,
29 and they were blessed with three remarkable children, Marshall (Linda) Stenson, Mary
30 (Lanse) Scriven, and Joel (Kartika) Stenson; nine wonderful grandchildren, Christopher
31 Dials, Marshall Stenson V, Terrence Stenson, Tyler Scriven, Jessica Scriven, Sarah Scriven,
32 Charles Scriven, Lauren Stenson, and Jordan Stenson; and

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

36 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
37 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example he made of his life, he
38 made this world a better place in which to live; and

39 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Reverend Doctor Marshall Stenson, Jr.,
40 will long be remembered for his love of family and friendship, and he will be missed by all
41 who had the great fortune of knowing him.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
43 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Reverend Doctor Marshall
44 Stenson, Jr., and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
46 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Reverend
47 Doctor Marshall Stenson, Jr.