

House Resolution 1835

By: Representative Epps of the 132<sup>nd</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending St. Smyrna Baptist Church; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, St. Smyrna Baptist Church was organized in 1883 under the leadership of  
3 Reverend William Sims; and
- 4 WHEREAS, St. Smyrna grew over the next century at several different locations under the  
5 leadership of: Reverend Kester, Reverend D. A. Smith, Reverend Morgan, Reverend W. M.  
6 Amos, Reverend George Duke, Reverend William Hill, Reverend Ed Person, Reverend  
7 David Lassater, Reverend Trice, Reverend Heflin, Reverend Favors, Reverend J. C. Ashford,  
8 Reverend Sylvester, Reverend Hunter, Reverend Paul Coleman, Reverend J. W. Causby,  
9 Reverend M. L. Sewell, Reverend M. Brantley, Reverend Eddie L. Collier, Reverend Robert  
10 Chapman, and Reverend Verlyn Styles; and
- 11 WHEREAS, in 1995, St. Smyrna welcomed Pastor J.W. Russell, Jr., and First Lady Russell  
12 who showed the meaning of God's unconditional and never-changing love, growing its active  
13 membership to 350 members and 41 ministries; and
- 14 WHEREAS, under Pastor J.W. Russell, Jr.'s leadership, the church moved into a new  
15 sanctuary in a building of more than 24,000 square-feet in 2007 located at 68 Heery Road  
16 in Newnan, Georgia; and
- 17 WHEREAS, following the death of the beloved Pastor J.W. Russell, Jr., in 2011, the church  
18 selected then 24 year-old Pastor Tamarkus T. Cook in 2012 to lead the church which  
19 subsequently began streaming live on the Internet; and
- 20 WHEREAS, St. Smyrna Baptist Church has become a beacon of light and hope to worshipers  
21 in the greater Newnan, Georgia, area through more than 130 years of spiritual service to the  
22 community as the "purpose driven church for the purpose driven person."

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
24 the members of this body recognize and commend St. Smyrna Baptist Church and express  
25 their most sincere best wishes for continued success.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
27 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to St. Smyrna Baptist Church.