

House Resolution 1944

By: Representative Epps of the 132nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Bethlehem Baptist Church on the occasion of its 147th
2 anniversary; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the seeds which were sown by the loving and humble efforts of the devoted
4 original worshipers of Bethlehem Baptist Church have blossomed, establishing a rich
5 tradition and history; and

6 WHEREAS, in 1867, Reverend James Gray and a group of 36 members organized
7 Bethlehem Baptist Church in a wooden structure along the Chattahoochee River, the river
8 which became the site of the church's first baptismal pool; and

9 WHEREAS, Bethlehem Baptist Church has grown under the divine direction of numerous
10 pastors over the years, allowing the Word of God to spread throughout the community; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1984, Reverend W. T. Edmondson began his administration as pastor and has
12 been dedicated to building God's kingdom ever since with the addition of numerous
13 ministries, growth, beautification projects, and a new sanctuary, taped services, and much
14 more; and

15 WHEREAS, the congregation of this church has compiled an unparalleled record of
16 constructive, compassionate, and humanitarian service which it demonstrates daily through
17 open minds, open hearts, and open doors; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2001, Bethlehem Baptist Church earned the distinction of being the second
19 African American Church in Troup County to become a member of the Southern Baptist
20 Association; and

21 WHEREAS, members of Bethlehem Baptist Church have a sincere desire to serve the Lord
22 and are wholeheartedly committed to spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

23 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this enduring example of God's message
24 of peace and love be recognized and congratulated for its innumerable good works rendered
25 on behalf of persons in need.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
27 the members of this body recognize the rich history of Bethlehem Baptist Church, commend
28 its 147 years of dedicated service to the Lord and community, and extend their warmest best
29 wishes for its continued growth and success.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
31 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Bethlehem Baptist Church.