

House Resolution 544

By: Representative Kendrick of the 93rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Rachel Lazarus, Dr. Tommy Welch, and LaShawn Smith, award recipients of
2 the Rho Kappa Lambda Education Foundation fifth annual Martin Luther King Unity
3 Breakfast; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Rho Kappa Lambda Education Foundation, Inc., established in May, 2002,
5 is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization based in Gwinnett County, Georgia, that mentors youth
6 and uplifts humanity through charitable, educational, and social activities; and

7 WHEREAS, the Education Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the Rho Kappa Lambda
8 chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., which is seated in Duluth, Georgia; and

9 WHEREAS, the Martin Luther King Unity Breakfast serves as an opportunity to celebrate
10 the legacy of service of Dr. King as well as other pioneering African Americans and inspires
11 attendees to live out these legacies in their homes and communities; and

12 WHEREAS, the fifth annual Rho Kappa Lambda Martin Luther King Unity Breakfast will
13 honor two outstanding citizens for their service and sacrifice to the citizens of Gwinnett
14 County, Rachel Lazarus and Dr. Tommy Welch; and

15 WHEREAS, Rachel Lazarus, a staff attorney with Gwinnett Legal Aid, serves as the director
16 of the Gwinnett Pro Bono Project, which matches caring attorneys with qualified clients who
17 need assistance to access the justice system; and

18 WHEREAS, Rachel Lazarus provides aid to Gwinnett County children, domestic violence
19 victims, elderly, low income, working poor, and unemployed citizens in legal matters
20 concerning consumer issues, debt, credit, and bankruptcy, family and juvenile issues, and life
21 planning; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Tommy Welch is principal of Meadowcreek High School in Gwinnett
23 County, which serves a unique student body made up of students representing approximately
24 a dozen cultures, nationalities, and languages; and

25 WHEREAS, Dr. Tommy Welch ensures that his faculty and staff provide appropriate
26 nurturing and motivation to the students of Meadowcreek High School as they grow
27 academically by using research-based instructional strategies to meet the needs of all
28 students; and

29 WHEREAS, LaShawn Smith has built diverse and highly effective boards to fund
30 development of numerous programs within Meadowcreek High School, has secured
31 corporate participation that increased the exposure of students to STEM, and recently
32 received a regional award in a mobile application development contest; and

33 WHEREAS, LaShawn Smith has made his lofty achievements while remaining active in his
34 church, pursuing his Ph.D., and preparing his three children for success in college and their
35 lives thereafter; and

36 WHEREAS, Rachel Lazarus, Dr. Tommy Welch, and LaShawn Smith tirelessly serve the
37 citizens of Gwinnett County and make their community a better place in which to live,
38 making it fitting and proper for them to be recognized by this body.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
40 the members of this body commend Rachel Lazarus, Dr. Tommy Welch, and LaShawn
41 Smith, award recipients of the Rho Kappa Lambda fifth annual Martin Luther King Unity
42 Breakfast.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
44 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Rachel
45 Lazarus, Dr. Tommy Welch, and LaShawn Smith.