

House Resolution 1681

By: Representatives Henson of the 86th, Dawkins-Haigler of the 91st, Stephenson of the 90th, Mosby of the 83rd, and Kendrick of the 93rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church and congratulating it on the
2 occasion of its 146th anniversary; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in the late 1800s, a bustling African American community developed side by
4 side with white and Jewish residents, forming today's thriving LaVista Road community; and

5 WHEREAS, one of the focal points that kept the community connected was Mt. Zion AME
6 Church, the oldest African Methodist Episcopal Church in Decatur and the second oldest in
7 DeKalb County, Georgia, according to the DeKalb Historical Society; and

8 WHEREAS, Mt. Zion AME Church has stood as a beacon of love, hope, and racial harmony
9 for over 146 years, and the church believes strongly in community, in developing children,
10 and in helping those in the community who are sick and shut in; and

11 WHEREAS, on July 12, 2013, Reverend David F. Richards III was appointed as the 39th
12 pastor of Mt. Zion AME Church, and under his leadership, he has worked to ensure repairs
13 to the church, developed a strategic plan, implemented a prayer forgiveness service, and
14 distributed 16,000 tons of food and beverages to assist 22 nonprofit agencies in reaching
15 more than 5,000 persons in need of food; and

16 WHEREAS, Reverend Richards also created the church's first Black History Month program
17 to share its story with the larger community as the oldest Black AME Church in DeKalb
18 County; and

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

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
23 the members of this body commend Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church,
24 congratulate it on the occasion of its 146th anniversary, and extend their warmest best wishes
25 for its continued growth and success.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
27 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Mt.
28 Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church.