

House Resolution 575

By: Representatives Scott of the 76th, Douglas of the 78th, Stovall of the 74th, Glanton of the 75th, Bazemore of the 63rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Floyd Chapel Baptist Church; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Floyd Chapel Baptist Church was established as a safe place for African
3 Americans to worship in the early 1800s, and as one of the first churches in Stockbridge, its
4 original location was approximately 1.5 miles north of its current site near present-day East
5 Atlanta Road; and
- 6 WHEREAS, a cemetery, which was shared by both Floyd Chapel and the historic Trinity
7 United Methodist Church, established in 1856, still exists at the original site; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Floyd Chapel was moved to its current location in 1878 and has endured as a
9 cornerstone of Stockbridge's African American community; and
- 10 WHEREAS, during the late 1920s, another wood-framed church was constructed at this same
11 site, and in 1949, that building was torn down, a new church was erected with the existing
12 blocks, and the structure's front entrance was turned to face First Street as it remains today;
13 and
- 14 WHEREAS, Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr., father of renowned civil rights leader and
15 Nobel Prize winner, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., worshiped at Floyd Chapel as a child with
16 his mother, Delia Lindsay King, and while growing up in the congregation, young King, Sr.,
17 loved to sing and distinguished himself by performing at area revivals and church services;
18 and
- 19 WHEREAS, according to Reverend King, Sr., he received his calling to the ministry at the
20 age of ten, preached his first sermon at Floyd Chapel, and then, at the age of 15, was
21 ordained as a minister; and

22 WHEREAS, in adulthood, Reverend King, Sr., would be known as "Daddy King," a
23 well-respected minister, influential community organizer, and early champion of civil rights
24 in the Jim Crow South; and

25 WHEREAS, in May of 1996, ground was broken on the Floyd Chapel Baptist Church
26 Memorial Hall, which served as the congregation's fellowship hall, and further expansion of
27 the church grounds continued in June of 1998, when additional land was purchased along
28 First Street; and

29 WHEREAS, in March of 1999, a large parcel of land was purchased at the corner of First and
30 Berry Streets (now Martin Luther King, Sr., Heritage Trail), and then another parcel along
31 First Street was purchased in March of 2012; construction of a new sanctuary on this
32 property was a part of the congregation's long-range planning; and

33 WHEREAS, today, Floyd Chapel has an active congregation with more than 400 members
34 and has flourished under the leadership of Reverend Edward C. Cochran, Sr., for over 26
35 years; and

36 WHEREAS, a commensurate community partner, the church continues to grow both
37 spiritually and physically while playing a vital role in the City of Stockbridge and Henry
38 County.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
40 the members of this body recognize and commend Floyd Chapel Baptist Church for its rich
41 history and unwavering dedication to sharing the love and Gospel of Jesus Christ.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
43 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Floyd
44 Chapel Baptist Church.