

Senate Resolution 423

By: Senator Wilkinson of the 50th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Vernon Lee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, from 1982 to 1985, Vernon Lee served as the drummer for the Rex Nelon
3 Singers of Atlanta, Georgia, formerly the LeFevres, who were inducted into the Gospel
4 Music Association Hall of Fame; and

5 WHEREAS, he was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1959, the beloved son of the late Ira
6 and Linda Lee; and

7 WHEREAS, Vernon received his first drum from his grandfather in 1969, and his mother
8 bought him his first drum set a few years later; and

9 WHEREAS, he did not receive formal musical training until college, when he studied music
10 and business at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and spent hours practicing his
11 drumming skills; and

12 WHEREAS, he played and made his first recording with a group in 1977 and spent three
13 years with the Rex Nelon Singers, whose accolades include nominations for Grammy
14 Awards and winning numerous Dove Awards; and

15 WHEREAS, during his time with the Rex Nelon Singers, Vernon played at many venues,
16 including the Grand Ole Opry, Opryland, Tennessee Performing Arts Center, Country Music
17 Fan Fare, and the National Quartet Convention, and in 1984, he played at the National
18 Religious Broadcaster convention in Washington, D.C., where President Ronald Reagan
19 addressed the crowd; he later performed for United States Senator and former astronaut John
20 Glenn during his presidential campaign, and Vernon was part of a live recording of a Rex
21 Nelon reunion album and video; and

22 WHEREAS, he was known by other groups and fellow musicians to have the best meter in
23 gospel music during his tenure and for playing "clean," and his best fans were his mother and
24 Floye Van Hooser, who was a second mother to him; and

25 WHEREAS, after leaving the group, Vernon served as the drummer at Mt. Paran Church of
26 God in Atlanta, Georgia, for 16 years, and he still plays occasionally and maintains his deep
27 love for music; and

28 WHEREAS, he is united in love and marriage to Maggie and is blessed with two remarkable
29 sons, Ira and Reed, who are following in his drumming footsteps.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
31 recognize Vernon Lee for his outstanding accomplishments and wish him continued success.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Vernon Lee.