

Senate Resolution 531

By: Senators Henson of the 41st, Butler of the 55th, Anderson of the 43rd and Davenport of the 44th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Women's Missionary Society of Antioch African Methodist Episcopal
2 Church; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Antioch African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church was founded in 1868,
4 right after the Civil War, in the home of Ms. Lou Bracher in Decatur, Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, since its inception, women have played a vital role to establish, grow, and
6 develop the mission of the church; and

7 WHEREAS, Sister Grace Walker was the first, and only, female named to serve on the initial
8 Board of Stewards, who serve as advisers to the pastor and assist in administrative capacities,
9 to help implement the courses of action to be taken to facilitate decision making for the
10 church; and

11 WHEREAS, the Women's Missionary Society of the AME Church is an international, faith
12 based, nongovernmental organization, which is in the forefront of works of mission, at the
13 head of the church, operating from the highest level within the church and the Episcopal
14 Districts, and reporting to meetings of the General and Annual Conferences; and

15 WHEREAS, the Antioch AME Church Women's Missionary Society serves as the women's
16 representational entity with a record of more than 140 years of service committed to winning
17 souls to Christ and to health, economic, peace, and justice issues; and

18 WHEREAS, in its early years, Antioch had a modest membership of less than 200 members
19 and the church has continued to grow and expand until it has reached its current membership
20 of more than 2,000 worshipers; and

21 WHEREAS, one of the many notable accomplishments of the Women's Missionary Society
22 was working to build the first edifice and retire the debt on that building before moving on

23 to lay the groundwork for new and additional structures over more than a century of its
24 history; and

25 WHEREAS, homage is given to Mother Starr, who was the church treasurer, and Sister Lena
26 Kemp, who served as the church's first historian; and

27 WHEREAS, Antioch hails as "One Church in Three Locations" with more than 56 total acres
28 throughout the metropolitan area that house the sanctuary, office complex, multipurpose
29 facilities, classrooms, conference rooms, and two phases of senior living facilities; and

30 WHEREAS, the Antioch ministerial staff is proud to have three female ministers to help
31 serve the needs of the membership and community, as well as to preserve and promote the
32 legacy of one of the most historic and influential churches in Georgia.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
34 recognize the Women's Missionary Society of Antioch African Methodist Episcopal Church
35 and acknowledge their contributions to advance the mission of the AME church and embrace
36 humanity in an environment that inspires faith, peace, justice, wisdom, and equality.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
38 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Women's
39 Missionary Society of Antioch African Methodist Episcopal Church.