

Senate Resolution 612

By: Senators Thompson of the 14th, McKoon of the 29th, Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd, Shafer of the 48th, Miller of the 49th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Reverend Dr. Edward Rhodes of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist
2 Church; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, located in Cartersville, Georgia, has a
4 storied history as a part of the Cartersville community; and

5 WHEREAS, the founder of this congregation, Reverend Jeffrey Milner, was an African
6 American preacher during the time of slavery, and while due to be hanged, he gave his last
7 words in the form of a sermon so powerful that his imminent death was pardoned by the
8 mayor of Cassville, Georgia. With his newfound lease on life, Reverend Milner went on to
9 establish Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church with a mission to spread the Gospel to the
10 Bartow County community; and

11 WHEREAS, after serving as an Alaska State Trooper for 26 years and as police chief of
12 Anchorage, Alaska, for six years, Reverend Edward Rhodes moved to Georgia to attend
13 seminary school. He subsequently received doctorate degrees in Biblical Studies and
14 Theology; and

15 WHEREAS, Reverend Rhodes began his tenure at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church on
16 February 19, 1995, a position he has occupied ever since; and

17 WHEREAS, this outstanding man has made it his life's work to impact the community
18 around him through his faith. As a result, he is regarded as a man of wisdom and integrity,
19 traits which have allowed him to become a leader in the Bartow County community; and

20 WHEREAS, he is a man known for his ability to address an issue head-on and build a diverse
21 coalition to find a quick and comprehensive solution; and

22 WHEREAS, as a testament to Reverend Rhodes' tremendous reputation, he was given the
23 honor of speaking to the National Baptist Convention of America International in 2015;
24 through this pulpit, Reverend Rhodes was able to spread his message of empathy and
25 compassion to an even wider audience; and

26 WHEREAS, along with his wife, Mattie Jean Hemphill, he has fostered the growth of a
27 congregation that reflects the diversity of the Cartersville faith community. Mt. Zion
28 Missionary Baptist Church is a place that inspires its congregants to live dutiful lives full of
29 service, love, and empathy; and

30 WHEREAS, the numerous accomplishments of Reverend Rhodes are befitting of the utmost
31 praise and commendation.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
33 recognize Reverend Dr. Edward Rhodes and commend his selfless and tireless work as the
34 pastor of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
36 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Reverend Dr.
37 Edward Rhodes.