

Senate Resolution 705

By: Senator Rhett of the 33rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending and congratulating James C. Birdsong, Jr., on his numerous accomplishments;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, James C. Birdsong, Jr., is celebrating the national release of his new book, *The*
4 *Best Is Yet to Come: A Testimony of One Young Man's Redemption*, and his 2018 national
5 book tour; and

6 WHEREAS, the Bible based inspirational autobiography tells the story of his humbling
7 beginnings in the San Francisco Bay Area and the history of his family lineage that consists
8 of his famous cousins, world-renowned R&B legend Cindy Birdsong of Patti and the
9 Bluebells and Diana Ross and the Supremes, Grammy Award winner and legendary organist
10 and keyboardist, Edwin Birdsong, and former NBA four-time All-Star basketball player Otis
11 Birdsong; and

12 WHEREAS, the book shares practical insights about how he has been able to overcome a
13 developmental disability and details his journey as a special education student who
14 successfully pursued his lifelong dream into the gospel music industry as a singer,
15 songwriter, and pastor; and

16 WHEREAS, a native of Richmond, California, who now resides in Austell, Georgia, Mr.
17 Birdsong graduated with honors from Fairfield High School in Fairfield, California, and went
18 forth to earn his Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Education from Beulah Heights University in
19 Atlanta, Georgia; and

20 WHEREAS, James has received numerous awards, accolades, and proclamations recognizing
21 his contributions in the gospel music industry, his leadership, and his record of public service
22 in the community as a mentor and role model to our nation's youth, and he has been added
23 to the Wall of Tolerance by the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama; and

24 WHEREAS, he is highly respected by pastors, politicians, members of the gospel music
25 industry, and peers on a national scale and has been featured on television and radio and in
26 print media; and

27 WHEREAS, Mr. Birdsong is currently involved in efforts to relaunch Gospel Outreach
28 Tabernacle Church, to be established in Marietta, Georgia, where he will serve as the founder
29 and senior pastor; and

30 WHEREAS, he is a member of the Cobb County NAACP, the Southern Poverty Law Center,
31 the Gospel Music Workshop of America, the Gospel Music Association, and the Stellar
32 Awards Gospel Music Academy, and he is also an affiliated member of the Global United
33 Fellowship in Nassau, Bahamas, where he serves as a pastor; and

34 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
35 extraordinary musician, pastor, and leader be appropriately recognized.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
37 commend James C. Birdsong, Jr., for his contributions in gospel music and his tireless efforts
38 to proclaim a message of hope and congratulate him on the release of his new book.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
40 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to James C.
41 Birdsong, Jr.