

Senate Resolution 1043

By: Senators Payne of the 54th, Mullis of the 53rd, Millar of the 40th, Shafer of the 48th, McKoon of the 29th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Emery Center of Dalton and recognizing it as a model center for the
2 preservation and study of minority community history in the State of Georgia; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, occupying the former Emery Street School building in Dalton, Georgia, the
5 Emery Center is widely renowned as one of the most prestigious and impressive museums
6 of African American history in the Southeastern United States; and

7 WHEREAS, the Emery Street School was originally commissioned and constructed as a
8 school for African American children in 1887, and it was the first public school building
9 constructed in the City of Dalton; however, in 1909, the original building burned down under
10 suspicious circumstances and would not be rebuilt until 1924; and

11 WHEREAS, the Emery Street School became a viable senior high school in the school year
12 of 1937-38 and it produced its first graduating class in 1939; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2001, the building was slated to be razed, but members of the community and
14 Emery Street School graduates persuaded the Dalton Board of Education and the City of
15 Dalton to instead preserve the building as a historical landmark and give it to the community
16 to be used as a museum; and

17 WHEREAS, the Emery Center has historical significance to members of the beloved
18 community in Dalton-Whitfield-Murray and throughout Northwest Georgia due to the more
19 than 100 years that it served as the foundation of the area's African American community;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the museum's thoughtful exhibits demonstrate that the road to contemporary
22 society is paved by the sacrifices, struggles, courage, and pride of forebearers who heroically
23 endured in the face of adversity; and

24 WHEREAS, the Emery Center strives to promote unity, trust, integrity, respect, strength, and
25 growth through the recognition and knowledge of the common ties that bind the heritage of
26 all; and

27 WHEREAS, visitors to the center leave with a lasting impression of the importance of
28 history and heritage education and recognize the immense contribution of the Emery Center
29 to the enrichment of the lives of present and future generations; and

30 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding contributions of this
31 extraordinary museum be appropriately recognized.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
33 commend the Emery Center of Dalton and recognize it as a model center for the preservation
34 and study of minority community history.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
36 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Emery Center.