

## House Resolution 422

By: Representatives Cannon of the 58<sup>th</sup>, Williams of the 168<sup>th</sup>, Beverly of the 143<sup>rd</sup>, Thomas of the 39<sup>th</sup>, and Metze of the 55<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the 135th anniversary of Ebenezer Baptist Church; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia celebrates the 135th anniversary of Ebenezer Baptist  
3 Church (EBC) located in Atlanta, Georgia, which has been a spiritual home to many citizens  
4 of the "Sweet Auburn" community; and

5 WHEREAS, EBC was founded in 1886 by a band of 13 faithful people united under the  
6 leadership of the Reverend John A. Parker, who served as EBC's first pastor at the original  
7 site on Airline Street from 1886 to 1894; and

8 WHEREAS, on March 14, 1894, the Reverend Adam Daniel Williams was called to pastor  
9 EBC, a church with 17 members on the roll. Reverend A.D Williams led the congregation  
10 in the battle for adequate public accommodations for Black people despite Jim Crow  
11 segregation laws; and

12 WHEREAS, Reverend Martin Luther King Sr., known as "Daddy King," served as assistant  
13 pastor to Rev. Williams from 1927 to 1930; Rev. King Sr. became pastor of EBC in 1931  
14 following the death of Rev. Williams; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1960, Daddy King's oldest son, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,  
16 joined his father as co-pastor, giving EBC international stature; he remained in that position  
17 until his death in 1968, and as a final farewell to his spiritual home, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther  
18 King Jr.'s funeral was held in the church; and

19 WHEREAS, the Rev. Martin Luther King Sr. retired on August 1, 1975, after 44 years of  
20 tremendous service to EBC and the world; the congregation of EBC called Dr. Joseph L.  
21 Roberts Jr. to be its fourth senior pastor, and he led the congregation in the construction of  
22 a new sanctuary across the street from the historic Ebenezer site in 1999; and

23 WHEREAS, under the dynamic leadership of Reverend Dr. Raphael G. Warnock, the fifth  
24 minister to lead the congregation who assumed the role of senior pastor in 2005, more than  
25 4,000 new members have joined the church; and

26 WHEREAS, one of Rev. Warnock's foremost accomplishments to date has been the  
27 completion of the Martin Luther King Sr. Community Resource Complex, which provides  
28 support to the Atlanta community at large; in 2021, Rev. Warnock was elected as the first  
29 African American to represent the State of Georgia at the United States Senate; and

30 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is honored to recognize EBC's 135th anniversary and  
31 celebrate the church's legacy of social activism as well as its spiritual and numerical growth;  
32 with a congregation of over 6,000, EBC continues to serve the Atlanta community in the  
33 Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
35 the members of this body recognize and honor the 135th anniversary of Ebenezer Baptist

36 Church and extend sincere best wishes for many more years of successful fellowship and  
37 service to the Lord.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
39 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to  
40 Ebenezer Baptist Church.