

Senate Resolution 344

By: Senators Harbin of the 16th and Burns of the 23rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Mary Gellerstedt for her 77 years of service at First Baptist Church Atlanta
2 (FBA); and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mary Gellerstedt has served under four pastors since she first joined the staff
4 of FBA at the age of 19 as a secretary. She has fulfilled multiple roles over the decades and
5 has provided strategic insight and support for the vision and mission of the church; and

6 WHEREAS, Mary Gellerstedt has fearlessly led efforts on racial integration at FBA,
7 leveraging her influence to champion justice and equality for all people within and beyond
8 the church. She was a pioneer in this area, envisioning and helping build a multi-racial,
9 multi-ethnic church congregation; and

10 WHEREAS, Mary Gellerstedt started the International Ministry at FBA with the goal of
11 providing a cross-cultural setting committed to the needs of the global community. This
12 department gathered members from around the world, including North America, South
13 America, Europe, Africa, Asia, the South Pacific, and the Caribbean Islands; and

14 WHEREAS, Mary Gellerstedt has provided pivotal programs, such as ESL and United States
15 citizenship classes to help immigrants and foreign residents in the community; and

16 WHEREAS, Mary Gellerstedt was instrumental in helping start several ethnic churches in
17 the Atlanta area. Due to her leadership and support, the Asian-Indian, Romanian, and
18 Ethiopian churches now have thriving congregations around the city and minister to the
19 unique needs of their ethnic groups; and

20 WHEREAS, in her role as director of the Global Missions Ministry, she oversees the support
21 of career missionaries serving on every continent, focusing on spiritual transformation
22 through the preaching of the Gospel, pastoral and leadership training, and assistance in
23 numerous humanitarian projects, especially in times of geopolitical crisis and natural
24 disasters; and

25 WHEREAS, through her 77 years on staff at FBA, Mary Gellerstedt has lived a faithful life.
26 Through her visionary leadership and tireless commitment, Mary has impacted generations
27 across continents, motivated by a passion for God and compassion for people.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 join in recognizing Mary Gellerstedt for her 77 years of service at First Baptist Church
30 Atlanta.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
32 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Mary Gellerstedt.