

Senate Resolution 259

By: Senator Mangham of the 55th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Reverend Vandy Carl Simmons, recipient of the Dr. Martin
2 Luther King Jr. Community Service Award; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, a native of Tifton, Georgia, Reverend Vandy Carl Simmons has dedicated his
4 life to ministry, education, and service to others; and

5 WHEREAS, since October 2016, he has faithfully served as the senior pastor of Antioch
6 A.M.E. Church in Stone Mountain, Georgia, continuing the legacy of spiritual guidance and
7 community outreach established by his predecessor, Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker; and

8 WHEREAS, under his leadership, Antioch A.M.E. Church has completed renovations to the
9 sanctuary, fellowship hall, restrooms, daycare, and food pantry as well as improved
10 accessibility with a newly paved and marked parking lot and new security systems; and

11 WHEREAS, embracing the mission of being "In the Community, For the Community," he
12 has fostered strong partnerships with Freedom Middle School and Friends of Hairston Park
13 as well as secured over \$73,000 in funding to provide financial assistance and vital resources
14 to the community; and

15 WHEREAS, Reverend Simmons has expanded the church's outreach efforts by hosting town
16 hall meetings, a mental health forum, summer camps for the learning-disabled, career fairs,
17 and back-to-school events that offer free haircuts and hair braiding for students; and

18 WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, he led the church in securing Paycheck
19 Protection Program (PPP) funds to sustain full-time staff, serving as a Virtual Learning
20 Center for children of working parents, and operating as a COVID-19 testing site; and

21 WHEREAS, his steadfast leadership and service have earned him numerous accolades,
22 including Clergy of the Year awards from Bishop Reginald T. Jackson and the Lay
23 Organization, the Best Pastor Award from Antioch Seniors in Action, the People's Choice
24 Award from the Sixth Episcopal District, and many more; and

25 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper to honor the outstanding accomplishments
26 and dynamic Christian ministry of this devout and pious man during this special time.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
28 recognize and commend Reverend Vandy Carl Simmons, recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther
29 King Jr. Community Service Award, and extend sincere best wishes for continued success.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
31 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Reverend Vandy
32 Carl Simmons.