

House Resolution 572

By: Representatives Jones of the 143rd, Flournoy of the 74th, Griffin of the 149th, Reese of the 140th, and Herring of the 145th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Steward Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church on the
2 occasion of its 160th anniversary; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, organized in 1865, Steward Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church has
4 remained steadfast in its mission of spiritual and social upliftment, guided by the divine
5 direction of numerous pastors throughout the years; and

6 WHEREAS, since its founding, Steward Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church has
7 served as a beacon of faith and resilience, persevering after the destruction of its original
8 church building in 1869 and securing a permanent place of worship through the unwavering
9 dedication of its members; and

10 WHEREAS, Steward Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church played a pivotal role in
11 the Civil Rights Movement as a hub for religious, political, and social change, including
12 hosting Dr. Benjamin E. Mays as a speaker in 1954 to discuss the impact of the Supreme
13 Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* decision; and

14 WHEREAS, in that same year, the church welcomed the renowned educator and activist Dr.
15 Mary McLeod Bethune as the Women's Day speaker, drawing a capacity crowd from Macon
16 and the surrounding communities; and

17 WHEREAS, Steward Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church cemented its role in the
18 Civil Rights Movement when it hosted Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on September 19, 1957,
19 for his only major speech in Macon, wherein over 600 attendees braved heavy rain to hear
20 his sermon titled "There is No East and No West"; and

21 WHEREAS, the story of Steward Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church is one of
22 triumph through the grace and sustaining power of God, and it stands as an immovable
23 witness to the truth that God keeps His promise; and

24 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this enduring example of God's message
25 of peace and love be recognized and congratulated for its innumerable good works rendered
26 on behalf of persons in need.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body recognize the rich history of Steward Chapel African Methodist
29 Episcopal Church, commend its 160 years of dedicated service to the Lord and community,
30 and extend their most sincere best wishes for its continued growth and success.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
32 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
33 Steward Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church.