

Senate Resolution 845

By: Senators Mangham of the 55th, Wicks of the 34th and Kemp of the 38th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending and honoring former President Barack Obama during Black History Month and
2 condemning racist attacks and rhetoric directed toward him, including the Obamas'
3 caricaturization as monkeys; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Barack Hussein Obama was born in the United States on August 4, 1961, in
5 Honolulu, Hawaii, and from an early age experienced a life shaped by travel, curiosity, and
6 engagement with cultures across the United States and the world, including time spent in the
7 Midwest and Indonesia; and

8 WHEREAS, Barack Obama graduated from Columbia University with a degree in
9 International Relations, during which time he actively protested the great historical evil of
10 apartheid in South Africa; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1988, Barack Obama enrolled at Harvard Law School, where he made history
12 as the first Black editor of the *Harvard Law Review*, graduating magna cum laude in 1991
13 and beginning a distinguished career as a constitutional law scholar and professor; and

14 WHEREAS, Obama achieved international literary acclaim with his memoir *Dreams From*
15 *My Father*, regarded by some as the finest book ever written by a President and outselling
16 every other President's book offerings; and

17 WHEREAS, from 1997 to 2004, Barack Obama served the people of Illinois as a member
18 of the Illinois State Senate before his election to the United States Senate in 2004, where his
19 leadership and oratory ignited a hope based movement of people working together to
20 continue our nation's progress; and

21 WHEREAS, in 2008, Barack Obama was elected the 44th President of the United States,
22 becoming the first Black President in American history, winning an electoral landslide
23 unparalleled in the 21st century, and drawing nearly 2 million people to the Mall for the
24 largest Inaugural ever; and

25 WHEREAS, his two-term presidency was marked by recovery from the Great Recession, a
26 historic rescue of the American auto industry, the most significant expansion of access to
27 health care in generations, and the end of the war in Iraq; and

28 WHEREAS, in 2009, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his
29 contributions to diplomacy and international cooperation; and

30 WHEREAS, throughout his public life, presidency, and post-presidency, Obama endured
31 persistent and often vicious racist attacks, including the insidious "birther" movement, which
32 sought to delegitimize his presidency with ugly racism; and

33 WHEREAS, in 2026, during Black History Month, the sitting President of the United States
34 posted a video containing offensive and racist tropes, including the caricaturization of the

35 Obama family as monkeys, and refused to issue an apology, drawing widespread
36 condemnation, including rebukes from United States Senator Tim Scott from South Carolina
37 who described the video as "the most racist thing I've seen out of this White House"; and

38 WHEREAS, such rhetoric stands in direct opposition to the values of equality, dignity, and
39 mutual respect that Black History Month exists to honor and uplift; and

40 WHEREAS, Barack Obama remains a figure of extraordinary historical importance whose
41 life and presidency expanded the boundaries of possibility for millions of Americans and
42 inspired generations at home and abroad.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
44 recognize and celebrate the extraordinary life, legacy, and service of former President Barack
45 Obama during Black History Month.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body condemn racist rhetoric and
47 conduct from any quarter, including that emanating from the President of the United States,
48 and affirm its commitment to the principles of equality, justice, and respect.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
50 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
51 press.