

Senate Resolution 11EX

By: Senators Davenport of the 17th, James of the 28th, Rhett of the 33rd, Howard of the 35th, Mangham of the 55th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Reverend Willie C. Neal for his outstanding service; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Reverend Willie C. Neal has long been recognized by the citizens of this state
4 for the vital role he has played as a religious leader and his deep personal commitment to the
5 welfare of the citizens of the State of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, Rev. Neal was born in 1938 in Gay, Georgia, Meriweather County, to Rev.
7 Marvin Neal and Mrs. Corrie C. Neal, and he attended the Meriwether County School
8 System; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1957, Rev. Neal married JoAnn Neal, and this union was blessed with seven
10 children—in 1959, he moved his family to Atlanta and worked 24 years at Float Away Door
11 Company and Miltech Compay in Decatur, Georgia; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1956, he gave his life to the Lord and was called to preach; he served as
13 Assistant Pastor at the Work House of Faith Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, and Early
14 Hope Baptist Church in Covington, Georgia; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1987, Rev. Neal was called to Pastor Philadelphia Baptist Church in Locust
16 Grove, Georgia, where he served as Senior Pastor for 34 years before retiring in 2021—under
17 his pastorage and distinguished leadership, the church has flourished, including eight deacons
18 ordained, the organization of the mass choir, women's department, God's Creation Dance
19 Team, a newly established church college fund for young people attending college, the
20 purchasing of two vans, and land for new sanctuary purchased and new edifice built in
21 October 2007; and

22 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper to recognize the outstanding accomplishments
23 of the dynamic Christian ministry of this devout and pious man.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
25 recognize and commend Reverend Willie C. Neal for his many remarkable contributions on
26 behalf of his fellow citizens and extend best wishes for many more years of successful
27 fellowship and leadership.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
29 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Reverend Willie
30 C. Neal.

31