

House Resolution 786

By: Representatives Cannon of the 58th, Williams of the 168th, Thomas of the 65th, Smyre of the 135th, and Jackson of the 165th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the 151st anniversary of St. James Lodge # 4, F. & A. M.; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia celebrates the 151st anniversary of St. James Lodge # 4,
3 F. & A. M., located in Atlanta, Georgia, on Auburn Avenue in a building that was once the
4 Prince Hall Masonic Grand Lodge; and
- 5 WHEREAS, after the establishment of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia Free
6 and Accepted Masons in June 1870, St. James was established as one of the first 16 lodges
7 under Grand Master James M. Simms; and
- 8 WHEREAS, after being chartered on March 5, 1871, and instituted on June 24, 1871, St.
9 James Lodge # 4 was placed under the leadership of Reverend Francis Jesse Peck Sr., who
10 served concurrently as the pastor of Big Bethel AME Church while also serving as St.
11 James's first worshipful master; and
- 12 WHEREAS, brothers Roderick Badger and Rodger Badger served along with Reverend Peck
13 as senior warden and junior warden respectively; and

14 WHEREAS, St. James Lodge # 4 has a historic place in the fabric of Atlanta's history as the
15 first Prince Hall Masonic lodge among African Americans in the city; and

16 WHEREAS, during the early days of St. James Lodge # 4, Reverend Peck and the lodge's
17 members resolved to be active in the community both socially and politically; and

18 WHEREAS, to this day, St. James Lodge # 4 has continued in its tradition of possessing a
19 strong membership base of Prince Hall Masons, who work tirelessly in service to the
20 community and are exemplars of what men and Masons should be; and

21 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is honored to recognize St. James Lodge # 4's 151st
22 anniversary and celebrate the lodge's legacy of brotherhood and service, as well its historic
23 and numerical growth, as the Masons of St. James Lodge # 4 continue to serve the Atlanta
24 community and represent the best example of servant leaders.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
26 the members of this body honor the 151st anniversary of St. James Lodge # 4, F. & A. M.,
27 and extend sincere best wishes for many more years of successful fellowship and service.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
29 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to St.
30 James Lodge # 4, F. & A. M.