

Senate Resolution 1117

By: Senators Davenport of the 44th, Jones of the 10th, Carter of the 42nd, Butler of the 55th, Ramsey, Sr. of the 43rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Reverend Norman Thomas, Jr., on the occasion of his fifth
2 pastoral anniversary at First Baptist Church on Gresham Road; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Reverend Norman Thomas, Jr., was born to Dr. Norman and Dr. Inez Thomas
4 on July 23, 1974, and accepted Christ at the tender age of nine at Greater Travelers Rest
5 Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Reverend Hubert Floyd Shepherd; and

6 WHEREAS, during his senior year at Morehouse College, Reverend Thomas accepted the
7 call to the ministry, preached his trial sermon, and was licensed as a Baptist minister in
8 January 1996; in the fall of that same year, having graduated with honors with a Bachelor of
9 Science in Early Childhood Education, he began his professional career as a teacher in the
10 Atlanta Public School System; and

11 WHEREAS, he went on to earn a master's degree in educational leadership from the
12 University of West Georgia, and in 2010, he was promoted to the position of principal of
13 Meadowview Elementary School in DeKalb County, where he currently serves; and

14 WHEREAS, after being licensed and ordained as a minister of the Gospel, Reverend Thomas
15 held various leadership roles at Greater Travelers Rest Baptist Church, including assistant
16 to the director of Christian education, athletics' ministry coach, teachers' training instructor,
17 Sunday school teacher, new members' ministry teacher, family and marriage counselor, and
18 youth and children's pastor, where he taught and supervised over 300 children and youth; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2008, Reverend Thomas was called by God and elected by the members of
20 First Baptist Church on Gresham Road to serve as their pastor, and on Sunday, January 11,
21 2009, he and the First Baptist Church family embarked on their union between pastor and
22 church; and

23 WHEREAS, he is united in love and marriage to Rondah Thomas, and together they have
24 three beautiful children, Lauren, Norman III, and Lindsay; and

25 WHEREAS, Reverend Thomas has demonstrated his commitment to teaching the Gospel,
26 witnessing Christ through word and deed, and addressing the physical, psychological,
27 intellectual, and spiritual needs of others; and

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

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
32 congratulate Reverend Norman Thomas, Jr., on the wonderful occasion of his fifth pastoral
33 anniversary at First Baptist Church on Gresham Road and extend best wishes for many more
34 years of successful fellowship and leadership.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
36 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Reverend Norman Thomas, Jr.