

Senate Resolution 847

By: Senators Rhett of the 33rd and James of the 35th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Representative Calvin Smyre; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Representative Calvin Smyre has long been recognized by the citizens of this
3 state for the vital role that he has played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to
4 the welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Representative Smyre is a business executive, state legislator, and community
6 and national leader who earned his Bachelor of Science from Fort Valley State University
7 and holds an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Morehouse School of Medicine; and
- 8 WHEREAS, he has diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of his time,
9 talents, and energy toward the betterment of his community and state, as evidenced
10 dramatically by his superlative service with the Georgia General Assembly; and
- 11 WHEREAS, a former executive vice president for Columbus-based bank group Synovus,
12 Representative Smyre has served in the Georgia House of Representatives for 48 years and
13 is now the "Dean" of the Georgia General Assembly; and

14 WHEREAS, his extensive legislative record includes serving on a variety of key committees
15 such as Higher Education, Rules, and Appropriations, authoring the bill creating a state
16 holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., creating the HOPE Scholarship Program, and
17 co-sponsoring the bill creating a state flag without the Confederate battle emblem, a
18 polarizing fight in the late 1990s and early 2000s; and

19 WHEREAS, nationally, he is President Emeritus of the National Black Caucus of State
20 Legislators (NBCSL) and a past president of the NBCSL Foundation; and

21 WHEREAS, Representative Smyre has served with honor and distinction with the Georgia
22 House of Representatives, and his vision and unyielding commitment to excellence will be
23 sorely missed upon the occasion of his retirement; and

24 WHEREAS, he is a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation for
25 integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness; and

26 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
27 remarkable and distinguished Georgian and esteemed legislator be appropriately recognized.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 recognize and commend Representative Calvin Smyre for his 48 years of efficient, effective,
30 unselfish, and dedicated public service to the State of Georgia; congratulate him upon the
31 grand occasion of his retirement; and extend the most sincere best wishes for continued
32 health and happiness.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Representative
35 Calvin Smyre.