

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 51

BY SENATOR GRAY

A RESOLUTION

To commend Dr. Charles J. Southall III on his nineteenth anniversary as a pastor of First Emanuel Baptist Church.

WHEREAS, Dr. Southall is the son of Isabella McFarland Southall and the late Reverend Charles J. Southall, Jr., and the brother of Gregory K. Southall and Kersandra S. Peters; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Joseph S. Clark Senior High School, he went on to attend and graduate from the University of New Orleans, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Union Baptist College & Theological Seminary and Christian Bible College, Doctor of Divinity; and

WHEREAS, he was united in marriage on September 17, 1977, to the former Lila Maria Peters; is the father of Charles Southall IV, Chelsey Juonna Southall, the late Myrtle Southall and father by marriage of Alfred E. Davis, Jr., and Torriana Bell-Southall; and

WHEREAS, known as "Poppi," he is the grandfather of AllaChea Lailah Davis and Cureia Jolie Southall and grandfather by marriage of LaMara Pepp, LaMont Pepp, Jr., and Asia Mariah Davis; and

WHEREAS, upon receipt of a Christian upbringing in the New Zion Baptist Church, Dr. Southall received and acknowledged his calling as pastor at the age of twenty-one at Lowerlight Baptist Church in February, 1979; and

WHEREAS, he preached his first sermon on March 17, 1979, became a licensed preacher on January 11, 1980, by Lowerlight Baptist Church, and became an ordained minister November 15, 1984, by Dr. A.P. Fortner, president of the First District Baptist Association; and

WHEREAS, he was installed as the seventh pastor of First Emanuel Baptist Church on April 24, 1989, by Dr. Morris Burell, president of Ideal Association; and

WHEREAS, he has received numerous distinctions, honors, and awards including Oxford Who's Who Among Extraordinary Professionals and Executives, the first black vice-president of Foster Company, Inc., the first commissioner of Commercial Athletic Association, North American Registry of Who's Who Among Successful African American Civic Leaders, the 2000 Spirit of Greatness Award, Crime Fighter Religious Leader Award of the Year, and the 2004 Louisiana Businessman of the Year; and

WHEREAS, he remains active in numerous organizations including the National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc., Cornerstone Missionary Baptist General Association, Union Theological College and Seminary Board of Trustees, Central City Partnership, the Delgado Foundation, the Louisiana Baptist State Convention, the United Baptist Association, the New Orleans Faith-Based Initiative and the Innocence Project of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, the senate and particularly, Senator Cheryl A. Gray commends Dr. Southall's strength, commitment, business leadership, vitality and richness leading him to nineteen years of pastoral service to his church and mission of his community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dr. Charles J. Southall III, upon his nineteen years of service and leadership to his community and for the Pastor Anniversary Celebration held on April 20, 2008.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Charles J. Southall III.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE