

2017 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 51

BY SENATOR TARVER

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Pastor James C. Birdsong Jr. on his numerous accomplishments.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Pastor James C. Birdsong Jr. on his numerous accomplishments.

WHEREAS, James C. Birdsong Jr. was born on May 16, 1980, in Richmond, California to the late Rev. James C. Birdsong Sr. and Belinda Germany-Birdsong; and

WHEREAS, he graduated with honors from Fairfield High School on June 12, 1998, in Fairfield, California and subsequently earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Biblical Education from Beulah Heights University in Atlanta, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Birdsong is currently pursuing his Master of Arts degree in Organizational Leadership at Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and plans to complete the program by the spring 2018 semester; and

WHEREAS, he received his calling into the ministry at the tender age of three and preached his first sermon at fifteen; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Birdsong is preparing for the release of his upcoming book, *The Best Is Yet To Come: A Testimony of One Young Man's Redemption*, to be published and released nationally by T&J Publishers in Atlanta, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the Bible-based inspirational autobiography tells the story of his humble beginnings in Richmond, California, and the history of his family lineage that consists of his famous cousins, world-renowned R&B legend Cindy Birdsong of Patti & the Bluebells and

1 Diana Ross and the Supremes, Grammy Award winner and legendary organist/keyboardist,  
2 Edwin Birdsong, and former NBA four-time All-Star basketball player Otis Birdsong; and

3 WHEREAS, the book also shares practical insight into how he overcame a  
4 developmental disability and discusses his journey as a special education student which  
5 resulted in his pursuit of a lifetime dream to be a part of the gospel music industry as a singer  
6 and songwriter; and

7 WHEREAS, he will begin a national book tour to promote and share his story with  
8 millions of people of all ages and nationalities; and

9 WHEREAS, Pastor Birdsong has received numerous awards, accolades, and  
10 proclamations recognizing his contributions in the gospel music industry, as well as his  
11 leadership and record of public service in the community as a mentor and role model to our  
12 nation's youth, and his name has been added to the Wall of Tolerance by the Southern  
13 Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama; and

14 WHEREAS, he is highly respected by pastors, politicians, members of the gospel  
15 music industry, and peers on a national scale, and has been featured on television, radio, and  
16 in print media; and

17 WHEREAS, Pastor Birdsong is the founder and senior pastor of Gospel Outreach  
18 Tabernacle Church in Austell, Georgia and Nairobi, Kenya with a third location being  
19 planned in the state of North Carolina; and

20 WHEREAS, he was installed as the senior pastor of Gospel Outreach Tabernacle  
21 Church on September 26, 2015, during a historical installation ceremony, *The Dream Is Now*  
22 *A Reality: An Installation for Pastor James C. Birdsong Jr.*, at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church  
23 in Shreveport, Louisiana, with performances by Stellar Award nominated national gospel  
24 recording artists Lillian Lilly of the world-renowned Mississippi Mass Choir and Eva  
25 Sabiniano, and hosted by Shreveport-based national gospel radio personality Rev. Eddie  
26 Giles of the Stellar Award-winning KOKA 980 AM radio; and

27 WHEREAS, Pastor Birdsong has family ties in the Shreveport area that have allowed  
28 his family to be respected and recognized throughout the nation and abroad from ministry  
29 to the entertainment arena; and

30 WHEREAS, he visits schools and speaks to young men and women encouraging

1       them to pursue their life potential and has been invited to speak at the historical Booker T.  
2       Washington High School and Huntington High School in Shreveport, Louisiana; and

3               WHEREAS, Pastor Birdsong is a member of the Cobb County NAACP in Marietta,  
4       Georgia, the Southern Poverty Law Center, the Gospel Music Workshop of America, the  
5       Gospel Music Association, the Stellar Awards Gospel Music Academy, and, as a pastor, he  
6       is an affiliated member of the Global United Fellowship in Nassau, Bahamas, where Bishop  
7       Neil C. Ellis is the Presiding Prelate; and

8               WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities,  
9       and the overall vitality of American society depends, in great measure, upon the dedication  
10      of people like Pastor Birdsong who unselfishly use their faith and talent to encourage others  
11      to follow their dreams.

12              THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
13      commend and congratulate Pastor James C. Birdsong Jr. on his numerous accomplishments  
14      in the gospel music industry and at the pulpit and does hereby wish him every measure of  
15      continued success in his future endeavors.

16              BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
17      Pastor James C. Birdsong Jr.

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        The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
        of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Nancy Vicknair.

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DIGEST		
SCR 51 Original	2017 Regular Session	Tarver
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