

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 51

BY SENATOR TARVER

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 art's degree in biblical education from Beulah Heights University in Atlanta, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Birdsong is currently pursuing his master of art's 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 Diana Ross and the Supremes, Grammy Award winner and legendary organist/keyboardist, Edwin Birdsong, and former NBA four-time All-Star basketball player Otis Birdsong; and

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

WHEREAS, he will begin a national book tour to promote and share his story with

millions of people of all ages and nationalities; and

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, he visits schools and speaks to young men and women encouraging them to pursue their life potential and has been invited to speak at the historical Booker T. Washington High School and Huntington High School in Shreveport, Louisiana; and

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

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

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES