

Senate Resolution 142

By: Senators Halpern of the 39th, Merritt of the 9th, Jones II of the 22nd, Orrock of the 36th, Esteves of the 6th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Reverend Dr. Gerald L. Durley, recipient of the John Lewis
2 & C.T. Vivian Legacy Award; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Gerald L. Durley has demonstrated his commitment to teaching
4 the Gospel, witnessing Christ through word and deed, and addressing the physical,
5 psychological, intellectual, and spiritual needs of others; and

6 WHEREAS, after serving in Nigeria as a volunteer with the United States peace corps and
7 completing his post graduate studies in Switzerland, Reverend Dr. Durley was shocked to
8 witness the deterioration of proper moral, social, cultural, and family values throughout
9 America; and

10 WHEREAS, this prompted him to pursue a Master of Divinity from the Howard University
11 School of Divinity, and after earning his degree, he served for 25 years as pastor of
12 Providence Missionary Baptist Church, where he is now the pastor emeritus; and

13 WHEREAS, while serving as pastor, he became intensely involved in combating climate
14 change and championing environmental justice, asserting that common solutions must be
15 found in order to save the world that God so lovingly created for humanity to cherish; and

16 WHEREAS, he has been united in love and marriage for nearly 50 years to his wife, Muriel,
17 and the two have been blessed with two children and four grandchildren; and

18 WHEREAS, the unmatched spiritual assistance offered by Reverend Dr. Durley is a source
19 of strength and direction for persons in all walks of life; and

20 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper to honor the outstanding accomplishments
21 of the dynamic Christian ministry of this devout and pious man.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
23 recognize and commend Reverend Dr. Gerald L. Durley, recipient of the John Lewis & C.T.
24 Vivian Legacy Award, and extend best wishes for future health and happiness.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
26 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Reverend Dr.
27 Gerald L. Durley.