

Senate Resolution 301

By: Senators Jones of the 10th, Jackson of the 2nd, Harbison of the 15th, Butler of the 55th, Anderson of the 43rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Elam Jones on being ordained as a minister in July, 2016; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Elam Jones has demonstrated his commitment to both public and professional
4 ministry that engages with Christian ethics, social justice, and Biblical study; and

5 WHEREAS, a gifted student athlete called to be a spiritual leader, Elam was the AAA Tennis
6 State Champion in 2011 and 2012 and a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at
7 Woodward Academy, was the vice president of his church's youth leadership council, and
8 attended the Junior Statesmen of American Summer School at Princeton University with a
9 focus on constitutional law in order to prepare for college and beyond; and

10 WHEREAS, a member of Theta Alpha Kappa and a St. Vincent DePaul Scholar, Elam
11 graduated summa cum laude from the DePaul University Honors Program as a Dean's List
12 student with a bachelor's degree in religious studies and a concentration in ethics and social
13 justice; and

14 WHEREAS, from a young age, Elam knew with certainty that he was called to minister the
15 love and Gospel of Jesus Christ and serve the less fortunate; and

16 WHEREAS, he was ordained by Reverend Dr. Edward W. Lee, Senior Pastor, and preached
17 his first sermon in August, 2016, at Shiloh Baptist Church in McDonough, Georgia; and

18 WHEREAS, in order to further his education, he studied abroad in both Japan and the United
19 Kingdom and went on to attend Harvard University's Divinity School, where he is currently
20 a Master of Divinity candidate; and

21 WHEREAS, Elam currently serves as a Navy Chaplain Candidate Program Officer and is
22 learning to conduct religious services, provide pastoral counseling, give spiritual leadership,

23 supply religious education, facilitate free exercise of religion for all faith groups, and serve
24 men and women of many religious backgrounds; and

25 WHEREAS, he has earned distinction and recognition through his notable achievements and
26 has diligently dedicated his time, talents, and energy toward the betterment of his community
27 and state as further evidenced by his community service with organizations such as A Just
28 Harvest and the Hephzibah Children's Association; and

29 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this enduring example of God's message
30 of peace and love be recognized for his commitment to teaching the Gospel, witnessing
31 Christ through word and deed, and addressing the physical, psychological, intellectual, and
32 spiritual needs of others.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
34 commend Elam Jones for his innumerable good works rendered on behalf of persons in need
35 and for being ordained as a minister in July, 2016.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
37 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Elam Jones.