

## Senate Resolution 393

By: Senators Miller of the 49th, Wilkinson of the 50th, Gooch of the 51st, Ginn of the 47th and Unterman of the 45th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the distinguished career and retirement of David Smith of  
2 Center Point; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, David began his ministry at First Baptist Church of Gainesville, Florida, before  
4 moving to Gainesville, Georgia, to work with the Christian Education Center, later renamed  
5 Center Point; and

6 WHEREAS, the Christian Education Center began in 1967 under the leadership of the late  
7 Judge William B. Gunter who brought four local churches – First Presbyterian, First Baptist,  
8 St. Paul United Methodist, and Grace Episcopal – to purchase property and construct a center  
9 for religious and ethics studies; and

10 WHEREAS, as the center grew in stature, other vital programs were added including  
11 counseling, mentoring, and substance abuse prevention programs now with a staff of 26  
12 serving middle and high school students on ten campuses with a holistic approach that also  
13 includes drug awareness and teenage pregnancy issues; and

14

15 WHEREAS, Center Point, which provides a safe place for young people and their families  
16 from all racial and socioeconomic backgrounds to engage and overcome their struggles,  
17 celebrated its 50th year in 2018, and David retires this year having served thirty years as staff  
18 member and executive director; and

19 WHEREAS, recently, Center Point reached 10,000 individuals in one year with its  
20 comprehensive services, including 500 adult mentors for students and engages with school  
21 systems and community agencies to collaborate for the best interest of each student served;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, David confirms the mission of Center Point is "to enhance, strengthen, and  
24 change lives"; and

25 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this outstanding man of God be  
26 appropriately recognized.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
28 recognize and commend David Smith for his lifetime of service and ministry, congratulate  
29 him upon the grand occasion of his retirement, and extend sincere best wishes for continued  
30 health and happiness.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
32 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to David Smith.