

Senate Resolution 417

By: Senators Hickman of the 4th, Gooch of the 51st, Kennedy of the 18th, Watson of the 1st and Hodges of the 3rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Primitive Baptists in the State of Georgia; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Primitive Baptists in the State of Georgia, led by a delegation of Elders in
4 the denomination as well as members of the various Primitive Baptist congregations, had a
5 vision of a need for a care community for the elderly and orphans in South Georgia and
6 beyond; and

7 WHEREAS, the first building established to house the elderly was founded as Faith Cottage
8 and became known as Bethany Home for Ladies, followed by the purchase of the Dr.
9 Thompson Hospital in Millen, which became known as Bethany Home for Men; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1989, the construction of a new care community was begun, which
11 eventually was completed in 1992 and became known as Bethany Nursing Center of Vidalia,
12 housing both men and women; subsequently, renovations were completed on the Dr.
13 Thompson Hospital in Millen, which became known as Bethany Nursing Center of Millen,
14 representing what is believed to have been the first home established by a church for the care
15 of the aged in the State of Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2009, the Board of Trustees had a vision to expand the senior care provided
17 by Bethany to Statesboro, Bulloch County, and purchased a tract of property known as the
18 Neville Family Farm consisting of 63 acres from the Neville Family, representing the largest
19 single undeveloped tract within the city limits of Statesboro, and began the process of
20 planning and providing a senior community on this tract; and

21 WHEREAS, in 2014, the Board of Trustees began the construction of what is now a 44,000
22 square foot building representing the only certified Assisted Living Community within the
23 City of Statesboro, Bulloch County; and

24 WHEREAS, in 2019, the Board of Trustees again had a vision to expand the senior care
25 provided on the Statesboro, Bulloch County, campus and opened nine Independent Living
26 Cottages on the campus of Bethany, known as The Cottages at Bethany; and

27 WHEREAS, in 2023, the year of the centennial of the organization as a whole, the Board of
28 Trustees had a vision become a reality in the expansion of the provision of Independent
29 Living by the opening of 14 additional Cottages, bringing the total of Independent Living on
30 the campus to 23 Cottages, all known as The Cottages at Bethany; and

31 WHEREAS, under the leadership of the Board of Trustees of Bethany during the past 100
32 years, Bethany continues to fulfill the Vision, Mission, and Values of the organization that
33 were begun in 1923 in the Invitation "to engage in a faithful and joyous Community of Care,"
34 having served thousands of families and their loved ones during a most vulnerable time in
35 their lives while adhering to the Beliefs of Bethany to "Love God and love your neighbor,
36 Honor your Father and Mother, and It all starts with Faith."

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
38 recognize and commend the Primitive Baptists in the State of Georgia for their many
39 outstanding contributions on behalf of the senior community in this state and extend best
40 wishes for continued success.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
42 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Primitive
43 Baptists in the State of Georgia.