

Senate Resolution 49

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 19, 2017, as Dr. R. L. White Day at the state capitol; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Violence Policy Center, a national research and public education  
4 organization has declared that to successfully reduce America's black homicide toll there  
5 must be a focus on "...reducing access and exposure to firearms"; and

6 WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Statistics, and Federal Bureau of  
7 Investigation; the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease  
8 Control and Prevention; and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, as  
9 well as numerous state and local governments have documented that black homicides have  
10 reached epidemic levels; and

11 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has declared that for black men,  
12 between the ages of 20 and 24, the top cause of death is gun violence; and

13 WHEREAS, gun buy-back programs have confiscated thousands of guns and greatly  
14 enhanced public awareness of gun violence and accidental shootings; and

15 WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. R. L. White, Jr., Founder and Pastor of Mt. Ephraim Baptist  
16 Church in Atlanta, Georgia, a preeminent ecumenical, civil and Civil Rights leader, has  
17 championed gun buy-back initiatives to mitigate the national crisis of black homicides and  
18 its trail of tears and tracks of devastation, which have wreaked emotional and psychological  
19 havoc on families and communities; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. White's efforts have resulted in the reduction of guns in circulation that  
21 could have ended up in the wrong hands, and resulted in the reduction of risk of accidental  
22 shootings; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. White is reconstructing the script of social interaction of troubled  
24 individuals and families to reflect God's will of spiritually centered peace, love, and  
25 understanding; and

26 WHEREAS, this native son of Georgia, valiantly has championed the affirmation of God's  
27 grace, mercy, and assurance, to morally strengthen communities throughout the state; and  
28 tirelessly has prayed for liberating transformation healing of impacted families of both the  
29 victims and actors of violence, that, during their time of crucible intersects, they may find  
30 dignity and spiritual self-worth that will serve as an infectious and everlasting testimony of  
31 God's glory.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
33 recognize February 19, 2017, as Dr. R. L. White Day at the state capitol.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
35 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Dr. R. L. White.