

Senate Resolution 688

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Karl Eli Smith; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, for decades, Karl Eli Smith has served as a distinguished radio personality and
3 interdisciplinary champion of African American music and cultural affairs; and
- 4 WHEREAS, June is African American Music Appreciation Month, created by President
5 Jimmy Carter in 1979, to foster an appreciation for the global uniqueness of Black secular
6 music (jazz, blues, pop, and rhythm & blues) and spiritual music (Gospel); and
- 7 WHEREAS, Black radio personalities, jewels of betterment, since 1929 have brought forth
8 Scripture-based spirituals that convey God's word in psalms and hymns, expressing faith and
9 hope, and secular radio personalities have brought forth world-relevant music on street life,
10 romance, and social consciousness; and
- 11 WHEREAS, during the pioneering years of Black radio, Black deejays played the music of
12 soul singers, songwriters, and musicians whose talents were marginalized or excluded by the
13 indifference of mainstream radio and who otherwise had no measure of opportunity to
14 broadly display their distinctive gifts; and

15 WHEREAS, quick-witted, entertaining, informative, and humorous, these magnanimous
16 radio personalities on a daily basis affected African Americans from coast to coast reaching
17 audiences that included the literate and illiterate; the churched and unchurched; the white
18 collared and blue collared; the well-employed, underemployed, and unemployed; the young
19 and old; from all walks of life; and

20 WHEREAS, these preeminent women and men of radio broadcasting, part and parcel of their
21 listening audiences, served as social engineers on the front line of progress, promoting causes
22 such as civil rights, social and personal responsibility, voting registration, economic
23 development, academic achievement, and collective awareness; and

24 WHEREAS, pioneering Black deejays went beyond the call of duty as intelligentsia, as
25 voices for the voiceless; they went beyond the realm of music, bringing forth news and views
26 when Black news and views did not exist elsewhere and offering perspectives that enhanced
27 the dreams, hopes, and well-being of listening audiences throughout Georgia and this
28 country; and

29 WHEREAS, the members of this body and the members of the Georgia Legislative Black
30 Caucus join WCEG Network Incorporated in saluting Black radio personalities in
31 recognition of their global and cultural impact and call upon all Georgians to study, reflect
32 on, and celebrate African American music.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
34 recognize and commend Karl Eli Smith for his service and contributions to African
35 American music and cultural affairs.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
37 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Karl Eli Smith.