

Senate Resolution 702

By: Senators Jones of the 10th, Merritt of the 9th, Sims of the 12th, Mallow of the 2nd, Esteves of the 6th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Reverend Willie Raymond Starks Sr.; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
4 with the passing of Reverend Willie Raymond Starks Sr.; and

5 WHEREAS, Reverend Willie Raymond Starks Sr. was born on November 28, 1945, in
6 Atlanta, Georgia, a beloved son of John Henry and Mattie Pearl Starks; and

7 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
8 States Army, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans during the Vietnam
9 War as well as a deployment to Germany, where he met his future wife, Charlotte; and

10 WHEREAS, he was blessed with four remarkable children, Willie Jr., Marc, Collier, and
11 Timothy; ten wonderful grandchildren, Jalen, Christian, Jamel, Kendall, Zoë, Logan, CJ, Sir
12 Jackson, Christopher, and Kennedy; and one outstanding great-grandchild, Dream; and

13 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Reverend Willie Raymond Starks Sr. accepted
14 his calling into ministry while a member of Piney Grove Baptist Church, being licensed and

15 ordained by the late Reverend D. L. Edwards, and went on to serve as the senior pastor of
16 J. S. Hammonds Missionary Baptist Church in Palmetto, Georgia, for 37 years; and

17 WHEREAS, in addition to his pastoral duties, he served for 20 years as the culinary manager
18 for Old National Christian Academy, Landmark Christian Academy, and Greater Saint Peter
19 Christian Academy; and

20 WHEREAS, a renaissance man, Reverend Willie Raymond Starks Sr. was known for his
21 vigor, spirit, and roles as a comedian, chef, counselor, way-maker, and friend who enriched
22 the lives of many beyond the walls of the church; and

23 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
24 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example he made of his life, he
25 made this world a better place in which to live; and

26 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man who demonstrated his commitment to
27 witnessing Christ through word and deed, Reverend Willie Raymond Starks Sr. will long be
28 remembered for his love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who
29 had the great fortune of knowing him.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
31 join in honoring the life and memory of Reverend Willie Raymond Starks Sr. and express
32 their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of
35 Reverend Willie Raymond Starks Sr.