

Senate Resolution 877

By: Senator James of the 35th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Dr. Samuel Pieh; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Samuel Pieh, a distinguished individual and descendant of the enslaved  
3 Africans who became poster children of the American abolitionists in 1839, has  
4 demonstrated great respect and appreciation for the historical significance of former  
5 President John Quincy Adams and his defense of the human rights of the Amistad Africans  
6 in the Supreme Court of the United States of America; and

7 WHEREAS, he acknowledges the pivotal role of President Kennedy, who took great political  
8 risks by intervening to release Reverend Martin Luther King from prison in 1960 and using  
9 the National Guard to desegregate southern colleges, including the University of Mississippi;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, his own son graduated from the University of Mississippi in December 2015,  
12 exemplifying the impact of President Kennedy's actions on the lives of individuals and their  
13 pursuit of education and equality; and

14 WHEREAS, he recognizes the oratory skills of President Kennedy, echoing the sentiments  
15 of John Quincy Adams, particularly the quote from Kennedy's June 1963 civil rights address,  
16 emphasizing the right to expect fairness and color-blindness in the application of the law; and

17 WHEREAS, he, with humble beginnings in Taiama, Sierra Leone, a deep and abiding faith  
18 in God, being a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and inspired by the historical events  
19 depicted in the movie *Amistad*, believes that his life experiences can trigger partnerships for  
20 peace, appropriate capacity building, civic transformation, and spiritual upliftment; and

21 WHEREAS, he embraces the values of leadership with stewardship for public good,  
22 recognizing the importance of mutual commitment in every partnership for sustainable  
23 transformation; and

24 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia acknowledges and commends him for his insightful  
25 reflections, commitment to justice, dedication to the principles of equality, education, civic  
26 transformation, and the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as well as his unique  
27 perspective drawn from the events portrayed in the movie *Amistad*; and

28 WHEREAS, he will be receiving an honorary degree from Trinity International University  
29 of Ambassadors Corp. Florida on June 1, 2024, in recognition of his outstanding  
30 contributions to peace, education, civic engagement, ministry, and his ability to draw  
31 inspiration from historical events depicted in the movie *Amistad*; and

32 WHEREAS, he will also be honored with The Obama Legacy Lifetime Achievement Award  
33 in February 2025, further recognizing his exemplary lifetime contributions to justice,  
34 equality, civic transformation, spiritual upliftment, and his unique perspective derived from  
35 the historical events portrayed in the movie *Amistad*.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
37 express profound gratitude to Dr. Samuel Pieh for his continued efforts in fostering  
38 partnerships for peace and capacity building, drawing inspiration from historical figures like  
39 John Quincy Adams and President Kennedy, as well as the events depicted in the movie  
40 *Amistad*.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
42 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Dr. Samuel Pieh  
43 as a token of appreciation and recognition for his outstanding contributions and commitment  
44 to the ideals of justice, equality, civic transformation, the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus  
45 Christ, and his unique perspective inspired by the events portrayed in the movie *Amistad*.