

By: Senator(s) Simmons, Walls, Turner

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 39

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING DR. GLENELL
2 LEE-PRUITT AS THE FIRST FEMALE PASTOR AT HISTORIC SOLOMON CHAPEL
3 AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CLEVELAND, MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, in October of 1997, Glenell Lee-Pruitt decided to
5 announce her calling into the ministry. She made the announcement
6 at Solomon Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church of
7 Cleveland, Mississippi, one Sunday. Nine years later, Pruitt is
8 back at Solomon Chapel, but this time she's not just acknowledging
9 her call, she's serving as its Pastor; and

10 WHEREAS, for the first time in its 122-year history, Solomon
11 Chapel is under the leadership of a female Pastor; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Pruitt, who resides in Leland, Mississippi,
13 received the appointment from Bishop C.G. Henning, the presiding
14 Bishop of the Eighth Episcopal District of Mississippi and
15 Louisiana, on December 4, 2005, and preached her first sermon the
16 following day; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Pruitt's father, William Lee, was also an AME
18 Minister who served as Pastor of churches in Bolivar County,
19 Mississippi. She said she never thought she would be a Minister,
20 but she is excited about the opportunity to share with her new
21 church and the community it serves. Dr. Pruitt was ordained a
22 Deacon in October 1999 and an Elder in October 2001. She has
23 served various churches in the Delta area before being appointed
24 to Solomon Chapel, including New Zion AME of Belzoni, Mississippi;
25 Midway AME Church of Morgan City, Louisiana; Oneal Chapel AME of
26 Sunflower, Mississippi; Allan Daniel Chapel AME of Glen Allan,
27 Mississippi; and Disney Chapel AME of Greenville, Mississippi; and

28 WHEREAS, being the first female Pastor in Solomon Chapel's
29 history brings much excitement for Dr. Pruitt. "This church has a
30 lot of history in Bolivar County, and to become a part of that
31 history makes me feel wonderful"; and

32 WHEREAS, she holds a Bachelor of Social Work Degree from
33 Jackson State University, Master of Social Work from Temple
34 University, and recently successfully defended her dissertation
35 toward a Ph.D. in Social Work from Jackson State University; and

36 WHEREAS, because Dr. Pruitt's educational background is in
37 Social Work, she says she is a person who is interested in
38 enhancing and improving the community. She said one thing the
39 church will start is an ACT ministry for students. While she is
40 at Solomon Chapel she will stress the importance of education
41 because she believes that in preaching about God you have to tell
42 people how to better themselves; and

43 WHEREAS, the stress of education has historically been a part
44 of the AME Church. The oldest black university in the country is
45 an AME school, Wilberforce University in Ohio, which is affiliated
46 with the African Methodist Episcopal Church and became the first
47 co-educational college for blacks; and

48 WHEREAS, Dr. Pruitt's biggest ministry is her family. Her
49 husband, Steven; daughters, Maya and Gwendolyn; granddaughter,
50 Jailynn Mariah; and her mother, Bertha Lee, are very important to
51 Dr. Pruitt and are her biggest supporters; and

52 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize that
53 Solomon Chapel is celebrating the birth of the AME national
54 founder, Bishop Richard Allan, as they also celebrate a new era in
55 leadership by this outstanding Mississippi citizen:

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
57 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Dr.
58 Glenell Lee-Pruitt as the first female Pastor at historic Solomon
59 Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Cleveland,

60 Mississippi, and extend to her, her family and her congregation
61 the best wishes of the Mississippi Senate.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
63 Dr. Pruitt and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.