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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING THE 20TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE REV. DR. AND MRS.
CARL H. BALARK'S SERVICE TO THE EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH

Introduced By: Senator Juan M. Pichardo

Date Introduced: June 12, 2012

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, The Ebenezer Baptist Church is located in Providence, Rhode Island, and is
2 part of the American Baptist denomination of churches; and

3 WHEREAS, Founded in 1887 and incorporated in Rhode Island, the Ebenezer Baptist
4 Church is the largest African-American Baptist church in our state and embraces twenty-one
5 ethnicities and cultures within its congregation; and

6 WHEREAS, The church's mission, which reflects the entreaties of Matthew 28:19-20, "is
7 to bring people to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, develop them in Christ-like (Christian)
8 maturity and equip them for ministry in the church and life mission in the world in order to
9 magnify God's name"; and

10 WHEREAS, For the past two decades, the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Carl H. Balark have
11 dedicated their hearts and minds in faithful service as Pastor and First Lady to the congregation at
12 the Ebenezer Baptist Church; and

13 WHEREAS, Pastor Balark found his calling at a young age. His mother and father
14 encouraged his innate love of people and his keen interest in God and Church. He attained
15 degrees from Morgan State University, the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, and
16 Virginia University of Lynchburg; and

17 WHEREAS, Pastor Balark served as Pastor for two churches in Virginia, Bethel Baptist
18 Church and Gospel Temple Baptist. In addition, he became the first African-American President
19 of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches and has earned a plethora of honors and

1 distinctions; and

2 WHEREAS, Since June of 1992, Rev. Balark has served as Senior Pastor of the Ebenezer
3 Baptist Church. He has been married to his lovely wife for twenty-nine years and together they
4 have proven to be a dynamic force within the community; and

5 WHEREAS, Providing parishioners and the community with leadership and spiritual
6 guidance, the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Balark have enriched the spiritual lives of many Rhode Islanders
7 and have truly earned our respect, gratitude, and admiration; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
9 hereby honors and congratulates the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Carl H. Balark on the occasion of their
10 20th Pastoral Anniversary of dedicated service to the congregation of the Ebenezer Baptist
11 Church. May they have good health and many more years of benevolent service to their fellow
12 man; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
14 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Carl H. Balark.

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