

25103914D

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 279

2 Offered January 15, 2025

3 *Commending the Reverend Dr. Kirkland R. Walton.*

4 Patrons—VanValkenburg, Aird and Bagby

5 WHEREAS, for 40 years, the Reverend Dr. Kirkland R. Walton has provided the congregation at St. Peter
6 Baptist Church in Glen Allen with uplifting spiritual guidance, joyful occasions for worship and fellowship,
7 and abundant opportunities for community outreach; and8 WHEREAS, after graduating from Maggie L. Walker High School in Richmond in 1969 and earning a
9 bachelor's degree in geology from Virginia State University in 1973, Kirkland Walton enjoyed a successful
10 career as a geologist, becoming the first African American petroleum geologist with the Gulf Oil Company
11 and the first African American groundwater geologist with the Commonwealth's State Water Control Board;
12 and13 WHEREAS, Kirkland Walton graduated with honors from what is today the Samuel DeWitt Proctor
14 School of Theology at Virginia Union University in 1979 with a master's degree in divinity, and he became
15 one of the first seven students to earn a doctor of ministry degree from the institution in 1993; and16 WHEREAS, Kirkland Walton was licensed to the Gospel Ministry in 1977 and ordained in 1980 by the
17 First Baptist Church of South Richmond, where he served as the minister of education for more than three
18 years before becoming the first full-time pastor of St. Peter Baptist Church in 1985; and19 WHEREAS, with great vision and dedication, Kirkland Walton has nurtured the growth and development
20 of St. Peter Baptist Church over his tenure, guiding expansion projects that created new educational and
21 administrative spaces, a child development center, and a new sanctuary; and22 WHEREAS, Kirkland Walton has mentored aspiring faith leaders as a faculty member of the Samuel
23 DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University, where he is one of six scholars in context
24 and a member of the council of elders; and through his many workshops across the Commonwealth; and25 WHEREAS, Kirkland Walton has given generously of his time to support local faith communities as
26 president of the Henrico Minister's Fellowship and the Laurel Glen Allen Ministerial Alliance; and27 WHEREAS, Kirkland Walton has advanced the efforts of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia in
28 various capacities, including as two-time chairperson for its Commission of Christian Education, as dean and
29 assistant dean of its Congress of Christian Education, and as a contributing writer for numerous publications;
30 and31 WHEREAS, Kirkland Walton has served as a faith leader on the national level through his work with the
32 Congress of Christian Education of the National Baptist Convention and as the featured preacher for the
33 American Baptist Churches USA in Greenlake, Wisconsin; and34 WHEREAS, over the past 40 years, Kirkland Walton has embodied the highest virtues of those who are
35 called to preach and lead others in their spiritual journeys, earning the esteem and admiration of all
36 Virginians; now, therefore, be it37 RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby
38 commend the Reverend Dr. Kirkland R. Walton on the occasion of his 40th anniversary as a pastor of St.
39 Peter Baptist Church in Glen Allen; and, be it40 RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to
41 the Reverend Dr. Kirkland R. Walton as an expression of the General Assembly's respect and high regard for
42 his legacy of service.

INTRODUCED

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