

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 294409

ADOPTED ON JAN 09 2001

WHEREAS, Rev. George Walker Smith's lifelong motivation to provide quality education for all children resulted from his experiences in Hayneville, Alabama, where there were no schools beyond junior high schools provided for African Americans; and

WHEREAS, Rev. George Walker Smith attended Miller's Ferry Institute, a boarding school supported by the missions of the Presbyterian Church, he earned a scholarship to Knoxville College and received a Master of Divinity degree in 1956 from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Smith moved to San Diego in 1956 and founded Golden Hill United Presbyterian Church, now known as Christ United Presbyterian Church of San Diego; and

WHEREAS, he was the first African American elected to public office in 1963 when he became a member of the San Diego Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, he founded the Catfish Club, a venue providing weekly views on topics critical to the success of divergent views on topics critical to the success of diversity in the nation's sixth largest city; and

WHEREAS, he was elected president of the Council of Great City Schools in 1972 and elected president of the National School Boards Association in 1976; and

WHEREAS, he has served on the National Advisory Commission for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and White House Conference on Children and Youth and was

profiled in San Diego Magazine's 50 San Diegans who've had a major impact in shaping our city over the past 50 years; and

WHEREAS, he has served as pastor of Christ United Presbyterian Church of San Diego for 46 years; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the people of San Diego, does hereby commend Rev. George Walker Smith for his 46 years of service to the City of San Diego.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that January 9, 2001 be and is hereby proclaimed "Rev. George Walker Smith Day" in the City of San Diego.

APPROVED: CASEY GWINN, City Attorney

By Stuart H. Swett
Stuart H. Swett
Senior Deputy City Attorney

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