

# Proclamation



**WHEREAS,**

Elder Cal Lester Merrell was affectionately known as "The Happy Preacher", a name assigned to him by Bishop F.D. Washington in 1973 and validated by Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr. in 1974; and



**WHEREAS,**

Elder Merrell was known for frequenting worship services, funerals, commencement exercises, and high-profile occasions where others were being honored with his uplifting and spirited praise; and



**WHEREAS,**

Elder Merrell was the only Elder who held dual memberships at both Ebenezer Baptist Church and Prayer of Faith Church of God in Christ in Atlanta, Georgia; and



**WHEREAS,**

Elder Merrell was also known for his impeccable personal style and appearance which complemented his instantly recognizable voice in any sanctuary or auditorium; and



**WHEREAS,**

Elder Merrell was awarded the *Inspiration Award* by the Judge Penny Brown Foundation Honors in 2016 for his tireless example of praise and worship in his local community and beyond; and



**WHEREAS,**

Elder Merrell was a native of Valdosta, Georgia and a professional chef and caterer who relocated to Atlanta when he was inspired to meet his heroes, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rev. Shirley Ceasar, whose preaching inspired him to dedicate his life to faithful worship and praise of Jesus Christ;



**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Elder Cal Lester Merrell for a life of integrity and devotion to his faith and community, and does hereby proclaim Friday, January 28, 2022 as "**THE HAPPY PREACHER ELDER CAL LESTER MERRELL REMEMBRANCE DAY**" in Fulton County, Georgia.

*Fulton County Board of Commissioners*

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Commissioner

Attest:

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Clerk to the Commission

F U L T O N C O U N T Y