

2007 SENATE RESOLUTION 16

February 27, 2008 – Introduced by Senators TAYLOR and COGGS. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** commending the life and public service of Ezekiel Gillespie.

2 Whereas, Ezekiel Gillespie was born about May 31, 1818, in Greene County,
3 Tennessee; and

4 Whereas, he sustained himself during his youth by selling small, self-made
5 goods that he peddled from town to town; and

6 Whereas, in 1852, he moved to Milwaukee, earning a living by selling groceries,
7 vegetables, poultry, and game; and

8 Whereas, he eventually went to work for Alexander Mitchell, working as a
9 porter for the Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company; and

10 Whereas, despite his limited financial means, he selflessly boarded migrant
11 families from the south; and

12 Whereas, in 1865, he helped to petition the legislature for a referendum on
13 African-American suffrage; and

14 Whereas, later that year, while attempting to vote in that referendum, he was
15 denied suffrage by the Milwaukee Board of Election Commissioners; and

