

HOUSE RESOLUTION 256

By Miller L

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the Reverend Dr. Coleman Crawford, Jr., upon the occasion of his fiftieth anniversary as pastor of Grace Missionary Baptist Church.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those venerable religious figures who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Coleman Crawford, Jr., pastor of Grace Missionary Baptist Church, is one such estimable individual who has inspired the congregation with his faith and leadership for half a century; and

WHEREAS, during his ongoing tenure at Grace Missionary Baptist Church, he rehabilitated the church's first location at 1925 Rile Street, acquired its next location at 1231 North Manassas Street, and responded to the congregation's steady growth by building a new sanctuary at 1203 North Manassas in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Crawford concurrently served for forty-three years as pastor at Fredonia Missionary Baptist Church, where he oversaw the purchase of forty acres of land in 1973, built a new sanctuary four years later, added two-and-a-half acres to the sprawling property, and extending the church cemetery; and

WHEREAS, a highly visible figure among religious leaders, Dr. Coleman Crawford, Jr., attended the North Mississippi Baptist Education Convention's first Annual Session in 1964, became president of the organization in 1972, and served as a member of its board of directors, during which he renovated the dormitory building and helped co-sponsor the Coleman Crawford, Jr., Estates, a fifty-unit housing project for the disabled, handicapped, and aged; and

WHEREAS, he also served as president of the Memphis Baptist Ministerial Association, moderator and dean of the Union Progressive District Association, and dean in local and state Congresses; and

WHEREAS, a graduate from LeMoyne-Owen College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology, Dr. Crawford has proven himself a dedicated educator through his sponsorship of numerous Congresses of Christian Education, Sunday Morning Faith Clinic, and Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study and through his participation in the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education from 1988 to 2007, the State Congresses in Mississippi and Tennessee, and the Tennessee School of Religion, which awarded him an honorary doctorate; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Crawford is also deeply devoted to his family and he always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body are delighted to join in honoring this committed Christian and dynamic leader in the realm of the church and civic life — an eminent citizen of Tennessee and of his community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we join with the members of Grace Missionary Baptist Church in honoring the Reverend Dr. Coleman Crawford, Jr., for his life of continuing service to God and humanity, as well as to his community, State, and nation, commend him upon his fiftieth year as a pastor, and offer our best wishes for every continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.