

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 689

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Elder Charles Allen upon the occasion of his thirtieth anniversary as pastor of BibleWay Church of God in Christ in Cleveland.

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, Elder Charles Allen, pastor of BibleWay Church of God in Christ, is one such estimable individual, who has inspired the congregation with his faith and leadership for thirty years; and

WHEREAS, Elder Allen first moved to Cleveland, Tennessee, in 1978, when he relocated from Chicago, Illinois for his job; he was surprised to discover that there was no Church of God in Christ in Cleveland, but he befriended Elder Felton Smith and Supt. James M. Scott, as well as others, and began to worship in Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Elder Allen was approached by Elder Roy Mitchell to help organize and assist in the founding of the first Church of God in Christ in Cleveland; located on Dooley Street, the church was named Household of Faith Church of God in Christ; and

WHEREAS, after the failure of a rental property later that year, Elder Allen felt called to found a church on the property; it became known as BibleWay Church of God in Christ for the principles of the Holy Bible on which it was established; and

WHEREAS, the first service was held the first Sunday in January 1983; four months later, the church gained its first members and continued to grow, with many people being saved and baptized; and

WHEREAS, Elder Allen made it his focus to continue improving on his new church, and he renovated the property in 1984, with further expansions and improvements in 1994 and 1995; and

WHEREAS, Elder Allen has been recognized for his commitment to the betterment of his community and his dedication to his congregation, and in July 1996, he was appointed Superintendent of the Chattanooga District during the Jurisdictional Convocation; he held his first district meeting August 19-23, 1996, at Holy Temple Church of God in Christ; and

WHEREAS, he was also appointed to the position of Administrative Assistant by Bishop James M. Scott for the Tennessee Eastern Second Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ in January 2005; and

WHEREAS, Elder Allen has also worked towards the support of his wider community, and he sponsored the Chattanooga District Education Banquet for many years, which spotlighted youth attending college; the proceeds from the banquet went towards scholarships for youth in the Chattanooga District, adding to the financial aid Elder Allen provided to many youth in his church so they could attend college; and

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

WHEREAS, his Christian stewardship derives much support from his loving wife, his children, and his grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body are delighted to join in honoring this committed Christian and dynamic leader in the realm of 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 EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with the members of BibleWay Church of God in Christ in honoring Elder Charles Allen for his life of continuing service to God and humanity, as well as to his community, State, and nation, commend him upon his thirtieth year as 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.