

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 886

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Reverend Robert P. Harris, Jr. on the twentieth anniversary of his pastorate at First Missionary Baptist Church in Clarksville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are honored to recognize those venerable religious leaders who dedicate themselves in service to God and their fellow man; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Robert P. Harris, Jr. is one such individual who has committed himself to his pastoral calling and has served as the Senior Pastor of the First Missionary Baptist Church in Clarksville for the past twenty years; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Harris instructs and guides this growing congregation with a powerful testimony, a distinct leadership style, and a valued lifestyle of principles and integrity. He is a dynamic teacher of the Gospel, a committed and dedicated leader of this congregation, and a valued community member; and

WHEREAS, born on March 1, 1957, Rev. Harris is the son of Mrs. Margaret Harris and the late Robert P. Harris, Sr.; he is a graduate of Northwest High School in Clarksville, where he was an outstanding athlete on the basketball court and the football field; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Harris was awarded an athletic scholarship to Mary Holmes Junior College in Mississippi and attended Austin Peay State University and American Baptist College. In 2004, he received a Master of Theological Studies degree from Faith Seminary in Tacoma, Washington, and is currently in pursuit of his doctorate in Theological Studies; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Harris continues to enjoy the game of basketball and can often be found on the basketball court, where he delivers an awesome game to those who venture to

match him. More importantly, he makes a full-court press delivering the awesome Word of God to young men he might otherwise never have an opportunity to reach; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Harris serves as an instructor to the National Baptist Convention and as an advisor to the Austin Peay basketball team. He is a recipient of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Outstanding Religious Leader Award, as well as the YMCA's Black Achiever's Award; and

WHEREAS, some of the significant accomplishments of First Missionary Baptist under the pastor's leadership include a formulation and institution of a vision for the church to reach up, reach out, reclaim, and reproduce within the Clarksville and Fort Campbell areas; the completion of construction in 2000 of their current building located at 301 Fairview Lane, which was begun in 1998; and the August 2006 groundbreaking for the Emmanuel Family Life Center; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Harris is a devoted family man and is deeply grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Regina Dubose Harris. Their union produced four children, Derek, Omar, Brandy, and their late son, Billy; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Robert Harris possesses an abiding love for God, for the ministry, for his church, and for his family, and for two decades he has been a servant leader who is a tremendous asset to the Clarksville-Fort Campbell area and to God's kingdom here on Earth; 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 hereby recognize Reverend Robert P. Harris, Jr. of Clarksville for his pastoral leadership and community service, we commend him on the auspicious occasion of his twentieth anniversary of his pastorate at First Missionary Baptist Church, and we extend to him our best wishes for many continued years of success in pastoral service to others.

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