

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 414

By DeBerry

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate David R. Shannon upon his receipt of an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Heritage Christian University.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly recognize those venerable religious, community, and academic leaders who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, enrich the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is David R. Shannon, current president of Freed-Hardeman University, a man of faith who has served the people of this State for more than two decades; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2019, President Shannon will receive an honorary Doctor of Divinity, Honoris Causa, from Heritage Christian University (HCU), a most befitting honor, as it recognizes his embodiment of the mission of HCU and his commitment to advancing the church as a preacher, teacher, and effective communicator; and

WHEREAS, President Shannon served honorably on the Board of Directors at HCU from 2011-2017; he has influenced numerous young men to become preachers of the gospel, and his body of work as a servant of the church has earned notable respect and influence, which he uses to the good of the kingdom. He continues to serve and promote Christian higher education as president of Freed-Hardeman University; and

WHEREAS, President David Shannon was appointed to his current post in 2017, becoming the sixteenth president of Freed-Hardeman University; since that time, he has earned the respect and admiration of faculty, staff, and students for his commitment to serving and promoting the Christian values upon which the university was founded; and

WHEREAS, President Shannon has been active in the ministry since 1989, when he served at Timothy Hill Children's Ranch in Long Island, New York, for two years; he has also served on various mission trips to El Salvador, Honduras, and throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, he began serving at East Gadsden Church of Christ in Gadsden, Alabama, where he remained for seven years; in 1998, he became the preaching minister at Mt. Juliet Church of Christ in Tennessee, serving in this capacity for nineteen years before assuming his current role at Freed-Hardeman University; and

WHEREAS, during President Shannon's tenure at Mt. Juliet Church of Christ, he led at least three Bible studies with individuals each week; the church saw on average thirty to fifty baptisms annually; and the congregation grew from 485 members to 1,200 members; and

WHEREAS, throughout his inspirational career in ministry, President David Shannon has penned various articles and devotionals in Gospel Advocate publications, *ON: Preaching and Ministry*, *THINK* magazine, *Root* magazine, *One Word Devotional Book*, and *21st Century Adult Series*; and

WHEREAS, President Shannon has also preached more than 100 gospel meetings and conducted many workshops and seminars, including approximately 100 workshops on marriage, parenting, leadership, church growth, evangelism, and grief recovery; additionally, he is a co-creator of original 12 Questions Seminars, co-creator of *One Word Devotional Books* and *One Word Study Guide*, and co-founder of the evangelism booklet *Access to God*; and

WHEREAS, a trusted leader among his peers, President David Shannon has served as chairman of the board of Georgia-Ann-King Charities (1991-1999), co-editor for *THINK* magazine (2009-2012), a board member for Focus Press (2009-2012), and a member of the Board of Trustees at Heritage Christian University (2011-2017); and

WHEREAS, throughout his many successes, he has been blessed with the love and support of his wife, Tracie Barnes Shannon; his children, Colton (Rachael) Shannon, Lacie (Clint) Haynes, Emily (Josh) Terry, and Rang Yang; and his four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, President Shannon has provided inspirational leadership, having answered the divine call to the ministry to serve with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm to perform God's work; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and congratulate David R. Shannon upon his receipt of an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Heritage Christian University, extending our best wishes to him for 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.