

HR86 INTRODUCED



1 HR86
2 HDWD883-1
3 By Representative Givan
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 05-Mar-24



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HR_____ COMMENDING DR. TOMMIE L. LEWIS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS SENIOR PASTOR OF BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, PRATT CITY, BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure, highest commendations are conveyed to Dr. Tommie L. Lewis on the joyous occasion of his retirement as Senior Pastor of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Pratt City, Birmingham, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lewis, called to the ministry and dedicated to be worthy of his calling, pursued his ecclesiastical education and earned his Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Theology, and Master of Divinity degrees from the Birmingham Easonian Baptist Bible College and the Universal Bible Institute in Brunswick, Georgia; Honorary Doctorate degrees were conferred on him from the Universal Bible Institute and the Easonian Baptist Bible College; and

WHEREAS, a native son of Alabama, Dr. Lewis began his service 52 years ago with his first pastoral assignment at the First Baptist Church, Carver, Bessemer, Alabama; he was called a few years later to shepherd the devoted congregation at Antioch Baptist Church in Gadsden, Alabama; he heeded the instruction to "go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" and the Holy Spirit guided him throughout the United States and across oceans to Europe,



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29 Africa, and Asia; and

30 WHEREAS, in 1982, Dr. Lewis journeyed to Birmingham,
31 Alabama, to lead the devoted apostles of Bethel Missionary
32 Baptist Church; during his tenure, Bethel experienced
33 phenomenal growth; he organized, established, and maintained
34 numerous ministries with an emphasis on building up the Body
35 of Christ by evangelizing, equipping, empowering, and
36 encouraging his flock to Exalt the Savior, Equip the Saints,
37 and Evangelize the Sinner; under his tutelage, 53 sons and
38 daughters have heeded the call go into the world and preach
39 the gospel; and

40 WHEREAS, Dr. Lewis worked tirelessly and diligently
41 in running the business of the church and retired the
42 mortgage on the first sanctuary; only one and a half years
43 later, the building was destroyed by a tornado; Dr. Lewis
44 called out to the community and Bethel Emergency Management
45 Agency led the way to community restoration and
46 revitalization; the new sanctuary was dedicated and
47 consecrated on August 24, 2014; and

48 WHEREAS, Dr. Lewis is affiliated with numerous
49 religious and civic organizations and has been bestowed many
50 awards and accolades, including, serving as Moderator of the
51 Peace Baptist District Association, Chairman of the
52 Birmingham Jefferson County Transit Authority, Board
53 Chairman of the Jefferson County Committee for Economic
54 Opportunity, and the founding administrator of the Pratt
55 City Disaster Relief Center at the George Scott Elementary
56 School; Pastor Lewis was Alabama's first faith-based



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57 recipient of the No Child Left Behind grant for a community
58 learning center; he currently serves as the Superintendent
59 of Missions of the Alabama State Missionary Baptist
60 Convention and is a contributing member of the Northwest
61 District Baptist Convention and the National Baptist
62 Convention, USA; and

63 WHEREAS, Dr. Lewis has been the congregation's
64 guiding light, preaching the Word of God with passion,
65 power, and persuasion; his farewell worship service will be
66 held Sunday, April 14, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.; now therefore,

67 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
68 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That it is an honor to commend and
69 congratulate Senior Pastor, Dr. T.L. Lewis, on the joyous
70 occasion of his retirement for his 42 years of dedicated
71 ecclesiastical service to the congregation of Bethel
72 Missionary Baptist Church, Pratt City, Birmingham, and this
73 resolution is offered to him as evidence of our high regard
74 and with best wishes for continued blessings, good health,
75 and prosperity in his well-earned retirement.