

House Resolution 1753

By: Representatives Bennett of the 94th, Carter of the 92nd, Hugley of the 136th, McClain of the 100th, Stephenson of the 90th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Pastor Micheal Benton on his 40th pastoral anniversary and
2 congratulating him on his retirement in December, 2017; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Pastor Micheal Benton has demonstrated his commitment to teaching the
4 Gospel, witnessing Christ through word and deed, and addressing the physical,
5 psychological, intellectual, and spiritual needs of others; and

6 WHEREAS, Pastor Benton and his wife, Reverend Dr. Y'Vonne Benton, have led Fairfield
7 Baptist Church since 1977, and under their leadership the church has grown in membership,
8 service, focus, and spirituality; and

9 WHEREAS, an excellent expository preacher led by the Holy Spirit, Pastor Benton is often
10 sought out by other preachers and pastors with requests to shepherd and mentor them; and

11 WHEREAS, this pastoral "elder statesman" founded the "Bread of Heaven Ministry," a
12 program that trains, teaches, and supports other pastors; and

13 WHEREAS, Pastor Benton is a past president of "Right Choice," a collaboration of local
14 pastors and churches that partnered with high schools in their communities and supported,
15 mentored, and provided after school activities for male students; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2012, Pastor Benton organized the "Community Thanksgiving Fellowship,"
17 providing an array of services to economically challenged members of the community,
18 including food boxes, clothing, shoes, school supplies, Bibles, toys, personal hygiene kits,
19 health screenings, and barber services, and in the five years of this program's existence,
20 approximately 15 churches have come together to serve more than 2,000 people; and

21 WHEREAS, this master negotiator, skilled arbitrator, and compassionate mediator has
22 overseen the construction of several major projects on the church campus: two sanctuaries,

23 an administrative and educational center, a family life center, and the first church parking
24 deck in DeKalb County; and

25 WHEREAS, whether the task is preparing a sermon, visiting the sick, counseling the
26 troubled, baptizing a new believer, or acting as a theologian, educator, administrator, or
27 humanitarian, Pastor Benton serves as a shining example of God's righteous path; and

28 WHEREAS, the unmatched spiritual assistance offered by Pastor Benton is a source of
29 strength and direction for persons in all walks of life; and

30 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this enduring example of God's message
31 of peace and love be recognized for his innumerable good works rendered on behalf of
32 persons in need.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
34 the members of this body recognize and commend Pastor Micheal Benton as a
35 servant-leader; congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement; and extend their most
36 sincere best wishes for many more years of health and happiness.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Pastor
39 Micheal Benton.