

2016 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 12

BY REPRESENTATIVE JONES

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Reverend Doctor Winston Christopher Ridley, Jr., upon the occasion of his visit to the great state of Louisiana and fellowship with Mount Esther Baptist Church of Morgan City.

WHEREAS, Winston C. Ridley, Jr., was baptized at the age of thirteen at Jerusalem Baptist Church in Duquesne, Pennsylvania, which provided a rich and firm foundation of religious training; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Jerusalem Baptist Church granted Rev. Ridley a license to preach, and he became an associate minister; after six years of training in the ministry, Rev. Ridley was ordained to preach by the ministerial staff at Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church in Pittsburgh and held the position of associate minister until he was called to pastor Mount Olive Baptist Church in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania, where he served with dedication and distinction for fourteen years; and

WHEREAS, following the leadership of the Holy Spirit, Rev. Ridley accepted an invitation to preach in October 2000 at The Greater First Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.; by May 2001, he was installed as its pastor; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Ridley immediately employed new ways for the church to biblically, culturally, and technologically minister to the needs of its members and community, and while diligently working with his congregation through the years, he labored and achieved a master of divinity degree in 2006 and a doctor of ministry degree in 2011 from Howard University School of Divinity; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Doctor Ridley is the proud husband of Bonita LuRose Lee Ridley, an accomplished coloratura soprano, pianist, and organist; Mrs. Ridley holds the office of National Coordinator/Chair of the Ministers' Wives and Widows of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Incorporated; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ridley has enhanced his ministry through memberships with the National Baptist Convention, USA, Incorporated, the Hampton University Ministers' Conference, the Missionary Baptist Ministers' Conference of Washington, D.C., and Vicinity, and the Interfaith Council of the mayor of Washington, D.C.; Dr. Ridley also serves on the board of directors of the Council of Churches of Greater Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, the ministry of Dr. Ridley has expanded beyond the walls of The Greater First Baptist Church to the European continent, where he and the Fellowship Choir of the church ministered to the people of Düsseldorf, Germany, and Stockholm, Sweden; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Doctor Ridley will preach the Word at the seventeenth pastoral anniversary of the Reverend Doctor Charles Oatis, Sr., pastor of Mount Esther Baptist Church in Morgan City, and it is with great joy and gladness that the citizens of Louisiana welcome Dr. Ridley to the state to celebrate this happy occasion.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Reverend Doctor Winston C. Ridley, Jr., upon his momentous visit to the state and to the pulpit of Mount Esther Baptist Church in Morgan City and does hereby express best hopes and prayers for God's continued guidance upon his ministry and his life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Reverend Dr. Winston C. Ridley, Jr.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES