

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 128

BY REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON

A RESOLUTION

To commend Reverend Norah Banks, Jr., the Dean of Pastors in the Arcadia area, on thirty-five years of pastorship at New Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church.

WHEREAS, Reverend Norah Banks, Jr., has served as the shepherd of New Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church in Arcadia, Louisiana, since May 1978 with pastoral devotion, and it is appropriate to recognize the depth of his faith through his comforting and spiritual leadership; and

WHEREAS, Norah Banks, Jr., was born in Homer, Louisiana, to Norah Banks, Sr., and Janie B. Wise Banks, attended elementary school at Homer Colored School, which later became Mayfield High School, and graduated with his high school diploma in 1969; and

WHEREAS, in October 1973, Norah Banks, Jr., married the love of his life, Lillie Ford Banks, and their union has been blessed with three daughters, Leslie, Laketha, and Camill, and they now have nine precious grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, in June 1975, Norah, Jr., accepted his call to preach the Gospel under the direction of Pastor Earnest George at the Rising Star Baptist Church of Homer, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, New Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, the largest black church in Arcadia, named Reverend Banks as its pastor in 1978, and he has steadfastly and competently served in that capacity ever since; and

WHEREAS, in August 1996, Reverend Banks organized and led the New Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church family in the construction of a new church facility which was completed in September 1997, and dedicated in November of that year; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Pastor Banks, New Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church has ordained five new ministries and the church motto "We are the church where we come to worship and leave to serve", is a testament to the church's commitment to Christ and its community; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Banks holds a bachelor's degree in theology from the United Theological Seminary and Bible College, a theology degree from the Interdenominational Theological Center of Morehouse at the Morehouse School of Theology, and an honorary doctorate of divinity from St. Thomas Christian College; and

WHEREAS, as a community leader and ambassador for Christ, Pastor Banks has served as a moderator of the Liberty Hill Baptist Association since 2010; and

WHEREAS, early in his ministry, Reverend Banks sang with Echoes of Harmony, a local gospel quartet in Homer, and he currently sings with The Palmers, another gospel group which has recorded "I Can't Go Back", a song which he wrote; and

WHEREAS, as pastor, Reverend Banks's devotion to prayer and service continues to create an uplifting, uniting, and healing church and environment, and his many years of successful service are the result of exemplary dedication to the church and its parishioners; and

WHEREAS, for his thirty-five years of ministry, Reverend Banks is affectionately and respectfully known as the Dean of Pastors in the Arcadia region, and it is appropriate to recognize him and extend to him sincere and heartfelt appreciation as he continues to be an inspiration to many.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Reverend Norah Banks, Jr., the Dean of Pastors in the Arcadia area, for thirty-five years of dedicated service to New Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, does hereby recognize the good works and service that Reverend Banks has given to the church and its parishioners, does hereby express gratitude on behalf of the many lives that Reverend Banks has touched during his ministry, and does hereby extend to him best wishes for health, happiness, and God's richest blessings in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Reverend Norah Banks, Jr.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES