

House Resolution 775

By: Representatives Adeyina of the 110th, Williams of the 168th, Gilliard of the 162nd, Howard of the 129th, and Holly of the 116th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Dr. Eric D. Thomas; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Dr. Eric D. Thomas, better known as "ET," has taken the world by storm with
3 his creative, common-sense approach to living a successful, satisfying professional and
4 personal life; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas is a critically acclaimed author, world-renowned speaker, educator,
6 pastor, and audible.com Audie Awards Finalist; and
- 7 WHEREAS, his current success seemed unlikely after he dropped out of high school and
8 lived homeless on the streets of Detroit for two years; however, while he was homeless, he
9 met a preacher who inspired him to go back to school and eventually change lives; and
- 10 WHEREAS, he took a job at an Olive Garden on the westside of Detroit and met his wife,
11 Dede Mosley, at the Detroit Center Seventh-day Adventist Church. They then moved to
12 Huntsville, Alabama, attended Oakwood University, and were married as college students;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, while in Huntsville, Dr. Thomas preached and set up a program to help
15 underprivileged youth. In 2003, he took a job with Michigan State University (MSU) along
16 with a fellowship to attend MSU and complete his master's degree in K-12 administration
17 with an emphasis in educational leadership; and

18 WHEREAS, he worked as an academic advisor to disadvantaged students at MSU and
19 helped develop an undergraduate retention program called The Advantage with fellow
20 academic advisor and motivational speaker DeAndre Carter, which targeted academically
21 high-risk Black and Latino students. He also served as senior pastor at A Place of Change
22 Ministries (APOC Ministries) in Lansing, Michigan. He attained a master's degree from
23 MSU in 2005, and a PhD in education administration in 2015; and

24 WHEREAS, as CEO of his consulting firm, ETA LLC, Dr. Thomas has led his team through
25 the doors of dozens of hugely successful organizations and Fortune 500 companies, such as
26 General Electric, Quicken Loans, AT&T, Nike, Under Armour, New Balance, and UPS; he
27 continues to consult for major league sports franchises within the MLB, NBA, NFL, and
28 MLS; and

29 WHEREAS, portions of his sermons can be heard on the track "Intro" of deep house
30 producers Disclosure's 2013 debut album *Settle* and on the intro track "Wins and Losses" to
31 rapper Meek Mill's 2017 album of the same name. In 2020, he reunited with Disclosure to
32 speak on the song "Energy," which was released as the lead track from their third album
33 *Energy*; and

34 WHEREAS, by promoting his motto, "When you want to succeed as much as you want to
35 breathe, then you'll be successful," through a significant social media presence and regular

36 domestic and international tours, "ET, The Hip Hop Preacher" has become a global
37 phenomenon.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
39 the members of this body recognize and commend Dr. Eric D. Thomas for his numerous
40 talents and many motivational efforts as well as extend best wishes for continued success.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
42 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Dr.
43 Eric D. Thomas.