

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 465

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor Reverend Dr. J. Lawrence Turner on the occasion of his tenth anniversary as senior pastor of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor those individuals who have answered a divine call to ministry and have served with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm to perform God's work for their congregations and their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Reverend Dr. J. Lawrence Turner, who has distinguished himself as a citizen of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity and as a pastor of supreme tact and learning; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Turner will soon celebrate his tenth year of pastoral service at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church in Memphis and his twenty-fifth year of ministry service, milestones that recognize his faith and commitment to spiritual leadership; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Turner accepted his call to ministry as senior pastor of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church on January 13, 2013; before serving the communities of Memphis, he was pastor of the Community Baptist Church in New Haven, Connecticut, for seven years; and

WHEREAS, a Nashville native, Dr. Turner received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and Philosophy from Fisk University in 2003, graduating *magna cum laude*; he was a 2001 United Negro College Fund/Mellon Foundation undergraduate fellow and a 2002 fellow of the Fund for Theological Education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Turner received a Master of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School, and he was awarded the prestigious H.H. Tweedy Prize for exceptional promise to pastoral

leadership; he subsequently earned a Doctor of Ministry degree in Transformative Leadership from the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester, New York; and

WHEREAS, throughout his years of astute leadership, Dr. Turner demonstrated his talents in several positions; he served as president of the Yale Divinity School student council, vice president of the Connecticut State Missionary Baptist Convention, chairman of the board of commissioners of the Housing Authority for New Haven, and secretary of the board of directors of the National Action Network. Additionally, he is the proud founder and president of the Black Clergy Collaborative of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. J. Lawrence Turner continues to demonstrate excellence in his calling as a man of God; the members of his congregation are proud to call him their pastor, leader, and friend and look forward to his continued spiritual guidance for many years to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Reverend Dr. J. Lawrence Turner and join with the members of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church in celebrating his tenth year as their senior pastor, extending our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.