

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 859

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. L. LaSimba M. Gray, Jr., Third Annual Living Legend Awards honoree.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should specially recognize those estimable individuals who have dedicated their time and energies toward enhancing the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Dr. L. LaSimba M. Gray, Jr., who is being honored at the Third Annual Living Legend Awards in recognition of the leadership and service he has provided to the people of Memphis and Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, the Third Annual Living Legend Awards ceremony, which honors Harriet Tubman and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be held at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis on March 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gray is the retired pastor of the historic New Sardis Baptist Church, where membership grew by 2,000 members during his eighteen-year tenure; and

WHEREAS, formerly the health coordinator for the Memphis affiliate of the Congress of National Black Churches, Dr. Gray is currently the president of the Memphis satellite of Operation Push; and

WHEREAS, he has served with distinction as a member of the Tennessee Human Rights Commission under three governors and has been a member of the State licensure board for social workers since 2010; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gray teaches in the Congress of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., and Bluff City Christian College and recently toured Europe, teaching and preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gray was nurtured in the Christian faith by his loving parents, the Reverend Leo M. Gray, Sr., and Mrs. Corine Olivia Gray, and was baptized at Middle Baptist Church, where he was first introduced to prophetic ministry; and

WHEREAS, the "Dr. L. LaSimba M. Gray, Jr. Road" was christened by the Shelby County Commission in 1999 in appreciation of his long tenure of public service; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gray received a Bachelor of Science degree from Lane College, a master's degree in education from the University of Memphis, and Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Memphis Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, he is fortunate to share love and companionship with his wife, Carol Gray, and his four daughters and five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Dr. L. LaSimba M. Gray, Jr., is an exemplary individual; his commitment to excellence and community service is representative of the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Dr. L. LaSimba M. Gray, Jr., upon his recognition at the Third Annual Living Legend Awards, applaud his outstanding community leadership, and extend our best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

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.