

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1043

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION recognizing Pastor Leonard Dawson.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to recognize those religious leaders in our State who dedicate their time and energies to serving their communities, their congregations, and this State; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Leonard Dawson, pastor of Cane Creek Missionary Baptist Church in Memphis, is one such intrepid individual; and

WHEREAS, a native of Woodville, Mississippi, Pastor Dawson graduated from Draughons College with a degree in business management and is also a graduate of The Institute of Leadership Memphis; in addition to his role as a church leader, Pastor Dawson has rendered sterling service as a financial planner for eighteen years and has spent twenty-five years in the real estate and investment business; and

WHEREAS, he has served as the pastor of Cane Creek Missionary Baptist for the past twenty-nine years, during which time he has led the church with acumen and alacrity, serving his congregation and the community with aplomb and unwavering dedication; and

WHEREAS, Cane Creek Missionary Baptist is one of Memphis's oldest congregations. It was founded in the 1860s and was named after the creek that once ran behind the church cemetery; and

WHEREAS, the Cane Creek congregation is grateful for the support of the community in which it serves; thriving under the astute leadership of Pastor Dawson, the church reaches out to those who have lost their way, seeking to worship God and rejoice in the sacrifice of Christ; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Dawson is a dedicated member of several religious organizations, serving as the moderator of the Evangelistic Fellowship Hour, an instructor for the Memphis Baptist Congress of Christian Education, and serving as a member of the United Housing board of directors; he is the co-chairperson of the Memphis and Shelby County Anti-Predatory Lending Coalition and the former president of the Memphis Baptist Ministerial Association, to which he currently offers his assistance in financial matters; and

WHEREAS, he is also a member of a number of community and civic organizations, including the NAACP and Life Memphis of SCLC; and

WHEREAS, a devoted family man, Pastor Dawson is perhaps proudest of the love and support he shares with his wife, Mary Jane Dawson, his two children, and his five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Leonard Dawson is an upstanding member of his church and his community, and it is wholly fitting that he be recognized for his stalwart service to the Lord; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize Pastor Leonard Dawson for his years of service in the pulpit of Cane Creek Missionary Baptist Church, applaud his commitment to his congregation, his community, and his God, and extend our best wishes for his continued success and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.