

HOUSE RESOLUTION 110

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Reverend Dr. William J. Barber II.

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we commend those devoted men of God who work tirelessly not only to spread the Word but also to ensure liberty and justice for all; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Reverend Dr. William J. Barber II, an inimitable servant of the Lord who is wholly devoted to advocating for and compassionately fulfilling the social and moral imperatives of our nation; and

WHEREAS, currently bishop of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries and pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church, Disciples of Christ in Goldsboro, North Carolina, Dr. Barber also serves as the president and senior lecturer of Repairers of the Breach; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, he helped relaunch the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival; this initiative was begun in 1968 by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and started with a historic wave of protests calling for a moral agenda and a moral budget to address the five interlocking injustices of systemic racism, systemic poverty, the war economy and militarism, ecological devastation, and the false moral narrative of Christian nationalism; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. William Barber serves as co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign, which has forty-five state coordinating committees across the country, mobilizing around the Poor People's Jubilee Platform and We Must Do M.O.R.E. (mobilize, organize, register, and educate people for a movement that votes); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Barber is also the architect of the Moral Movement, which began with weekly Moral Monday protests at the North Carolina General Assembly in 2013 and relaunched again online in August 2020 under the banner of the Poor People's Campaign; and

WHEREAS, committed to the edification of future generations, Dr. Barber is a visiting professor at Union Theological Seminary and a Senior Fellow at Auburn Seminary; he previously served as a Mel King Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and

WHEREAS, a highly sought-after speaker, he graced the slate of the Democratic National Convention in 2016 and delivered the homily for the 59<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Prayer Service for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris; he is frequently featured in media outlets such as MSNBC, CNN, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Nation Magazine*, among others; and

WHEREAS, from 2006 to 2017, Rev. Dr. William Barber served as president of the North Carolina NAACP, the largest state conference in the South; he currently sits on the National NAACP Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, he is also the author of four books: *We Are Called To Be A Movement*, *Revive Us Again: Vision and Action in Moral Organizing*, *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement*, and *Forward Together: A Moral Message for the Nation*; and

WHEREAS, often duly honored for his good work, Dr. Barber is the recipient of the Puffin Award (2015), the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Award (2015), the MacArthur Foundation Genius Award (2018), and the North Carolina Award (2019); and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we honor this servant-hearted national leader who has evinced passion and devotion in all his worthy endeavors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we recognize and honor Reverend Dr. William J. Barber II for his many good works in service to others, extending our gratitude for his tenacity and integrity and our best wishes for his 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.