

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 841

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to honor Dr. Lester Basken upon his pastorate and community service.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly should recognize those venerable religious leaders who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, enrich the lives of the people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lester Basken is a trailblazer for his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and has served with distinction as pastor of Middle Baptist Church in Whitehaven for more than forty years; and

WHEREAS, the last of the seven children born to Price and Elvira Basken in Nesbitt, Mississippi, Lester Basken realized the importance of God, family, and education at an early age; and

WHEREAS, when Lester was ten years of age, his father passed away, and the family moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where he attended Geeter High School in South Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Basken received his call to preach in 1971 after returning home from military service in Korea, and he was called to pastor almost immediately following his call to preach the gospel; and

WHEREAS, now the senior pastor at Middle Baptist Church, Pastor Basken is an ordained servant leader and pastor who preaches and teaches the Word of God; as the church's highest officer, he acts as president and chief executive officer, governing church operations and providing leadership to staff, officers, and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Basken provides spiritual guidance and direction to the entire congregation, from the oldest member to the youngest, and he is a strong proponent of providing educational opportunity for our children; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Memphis Theological Seminary, from which he received a Master of Arts degree in Religion, Dr. Basken completed his doctoral work at the Tennessee School of Religion, from which he received a Doctorate of Theological Studies; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Basken is indeed blessed to share love and companionship with his wife, the former Irene Jackson, and their daughters, Sharon and Marilyn. Their son, Chrislyn, has joined our Father in Heaven; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Basken is a faithful servant leader who contributes his time, talent, and tithes to enhance the Kingdom of God, always preaching and teaching the gospel and spreading the good news about Jesus and His love; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body is delighted to recognize this committed Christian minister, for Pastor Lester Basken is an eminent citizen of Tennessee and Memphis; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Pastor Lester Basken upon his outstanding ministry as pastor at Middle Baptist Church in Whitehaven, thank him for bringing faith and hope to the lives of many through his community service, and extend to Pastor Basken our best wishes for much continued success and happiness in the years to come.

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