**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF REVEREND DR. LEON CARL RECTOR, JR., OF SPARTANBURG COUNTY AND TO EXTEND THEIR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS LARGE AND LOVING FAMILY AND HIS MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives were saddened to learn of the death of Reverend Dr. Leon Carl Rector, Jr., at the age of eighty‑three on Saturday, March 23, 2019; and

Whereas, born January 16, 1936, he was a native of Duncan and the son of the late Leon C. Rector, Sr., and Myrtle Rector; and

Whereas, Pastor Rector earned an associate’s degree from Fruitland Bible College in Hendersonville, North Carolina, and a bachelor’s degree in pastoral ministry from Mid‑Atlantic Baptist College and Seminary in Rock Hill. With further study he earned a master’s degree in pastoral ministry from Andersonville Bible Seminary in Camilla, Georgia, and he was awarded an honorary doctorate from St. Johns Theological Seminary in Los Angeles, California; and

Whereas, over the last fifty‑six years, he served as pastor for four congregations, the last forty‑two of those years as pastor of the Harrison Grove Baptist Church; and

Whereas, dedicated to his community, he served as a faculty member with the South Carolina Congress of Christian Education, as moderator of the Tyger River Baptist Association, as a seminar leader in the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, and on the Board of Directors of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., and he held life membership in the NAACP; and

Whereas, as a member of the Board of Trustees at Morris College in Sumter, Dr. Rector recognized the need for ministers and laity to be trained and taught, so he inaugurated an extension program at Harrison Grove Baptist Church. For over ten years, the Martin‑Webb Learning Center of the American Baptist College and Seminary, now the N. J. Brockman School of Religion, has been preparing preachers and laity to “rightly divide the Word of God” in order to become effective ministerial leaders; and

Whereas, Dr. Rector’s ministry included writing that encouraged many to rise above their circumstances through his book entitled *Ordered Steps*; and

Whereas, together with his wife , the late Lois G. Rector, he reared five fine children: Kathy, Lonnie, Myron, Allen, and Dennis, and adopted granddaughter, Shannon. He was blessed with the affection of twelve grandchildren and sixteen great‑grandchildren. He leaves behind his beloved and faithful wife Dora Smith Rector; and

Whereas, his many accomplishments at Harrison Grove were largely successful due to the fervent prayers of his congregation. One of his greatest concerns was the urgent need to win souls, so he diligently taught his congregation to lead souls to the Lord; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the life and legacy of Dr. Rector and for the example of wisdom and service he set for all who knew him. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, express their profound sorrow upon the passing of Reverend Dr. Leon Carl Rector, Jr., of Spartanburg County and extend their deepest sympathy to his large and loving family and his many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Reverend Dr. Leon Carl Rector, Jr.

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