

By: Sherman, Sr.

H.R. No. 794

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A rich and purposeful life has drawn to a close with  
2 the death of the Reverend Dr. James Lyonel Davis Sr. of Dallas on  
3 April 10, 2021, at the age of 87; and

4 WHEREAS, James Davis was born in Taylor on December 14, 1933,  
5 to Henry and Irene Davis, and he grew up with the companionship of a  
6 brother, Henry; in 1960, he was joined in matrimony to the former  
7 Effie Doris Williams, and the couple went on to share a rewarding  
8 marriage that spanned more than six decades; he was the proud father  
9 of two children, James and Elizabeth, and later had the pleasure of  
10 welcoming into his family four grandchildren, Taylore, Morgan,  
11 Karese, and Elijah; and

12 WHEREAS, After graduating from Anderson High School in  
13 Austin, Mr. Davis served six years in the U.S. Air Force, including  
14 three years in France, and he continued his military service as a  
15 staff sergeant with the Air Force Reserve until 1965; that same  
16 year, he completed his bachelor's degree in architectural  
17 engineering at Prairie View A&M University, and he subsequently  
18 became the first African American to work in the Housing and Urban  
19 Development office in Fort Worth; and

20 WHEREAS, Ordained as a minister in 1970, Mr. Davis began his  
21 pastoral career at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Merriam, Kansas, and  
22 United Missionary Baptist Church in Kansas City, Missouri; he went  
23 on to earn a doctoral degree from Elbon-Solutions College of  
24 Ministry, and in 1986, he and his wife founded the Faith Christian

1 Center in Austin; retiring after 16 years, he settled in Dallas,  
2 where he continued to serve as associate minister at St. John  
3 Church, Unleashed in Grand Prairie and Southlake; throughout his 44  
4 years in the ministry, Dr. Davis impressed all who knew him with his  
5 intellect and his ability to recite hundreds of verses of  
6 scripture, whole chapters of the Bible, and many poems; and

7 WHEREAS, A devoted family man and an admired spiritual  
8 leader, James Davis inspired countless people with his strong faith  
9 and his message of hope, healing, and salvation; now, therefore, be  
10 it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
12 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Reverend  
13 Dr. James Lyonel Davis Sr. and extend sincere condolences to the  
14 members of his family and to his many friends; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
16 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
17 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of the  
18 Reverend Dr. James Davis.