

By: Leo-Wilson

H.R. No. 1066

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Reverend D. N. Benford Sr. of Rising Star
2 Missionary Baptist Church in Texas City was recognized as the
3 longest-serving pastor of the same church by Guinness World Records
4 in 2022; and

5 WHEREAS, Called to the ministry at the age of 12, D. N.
6 Benford delivered his first sermon when he was 14; he went on to
7 serve as a guest pastor at Rising Star Missionary Baptist in 1947
8 and preached for the congregation again in June 1950 before
9 officially assuming the pulpit on August 27 of that year; for the
10 past 72 years, he has provided valued inspiration and guidance to
11 his community of faith, gaining a wealth of wisdom and knowledge
12 along the way; and

13 WHEREAS, In addition to leading his congregation, Reverend
14 Benford played an important role in fighting segregation in
15 Galveston County, with Rising Star serving as a headquarters for
16 the local civil rights movement; he was also a driving force in
17 integrating Texas City and La Marque High Schools and in helping the
18 first Black person to become a member of the La Marque Independent
19 School District Board of Trustees; and

20 WHEREAS, Throughout his remarkable tenure, Reverend Benford
21 has wholeheartedly committed himself to advancing the mission of
22 Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church, and he truly exemplifies the
23 highest standards of his vocation; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas

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1 Legislature hereby congratulate the Reverend D. N. Benford Sr. of
2 Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church in Texas City on his
3 recognition as the longest-serving pastor of the same church and
4 extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

5 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
6 prepared for Reverend Benford as an expression of high regard by the
7 Texas House of Representatives.