

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 1163

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of an esteemed spiritual leader drew to a
2 close with the passing of the Reverend Ricky Charles Bell on April
3 11, 2023, at the age of 66; and

4 WHEREAS, A native of Kilgore, Ricky Bell was born on October
5 2, 1956, to Alonzo and Earline Giddings Bell; following his
6 graduation from Kashmere Senior High School in Houston, he studied
7 business administration at Houston Community College; first called
8 to the ministry in 1978, he attended Union Baptist College and
9 Theological Seminary, Mt. Hope Theological Seminary, the South
10 Houston Bible Institute, and the Interdenominational Theological
11 Center; he earned a theology degree from Calvary Theological
12 Seminary and a master's degree from Jacksonville Baptist
13 Theological Seminary; and

14 WHEREAS, Pastor Bell was ordained on March 24, 1990, and he
15 was installed as pastor of Forest Lawn Missionary Baptist Church in
16 Houston on June 29, 1993; over the course of his exemplary tenure
17 leading the congregation, he devoted himself tirelessly to the
18 advancement of the church's mission and oversaw its many
19 faith-based community and counseling programs; highly respected by
20 his peers, he served as dean of the Puritan District Association and
21 was active with the National Missionary Baptist Convention of
22 America, the Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist
23 Convention USA, and a number of preaching conferences; his
24 affiliations also included the Fellowship of Prison Ministries and

1 the Baptist Ministers' Association of Houston and Vicinity, and he
2 was a lifetime member of the NAACP; and

3 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Pastor Bell enjoyed the love
4 and support of his wife, Virginia Annette Bell, and their two
5 children, Charles Anthony Bell and Kharah Rachelle Bell; and

6 WHEREAS, Ricky Bell was a source of spiritual guidance,
7 comfort, and inspiration to his congregation and to numerous people
8 in the wider community, and his legacy will live on in the hearts of
9 those who were fortunate enough to have known him; now, therefore,
10 be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
12 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Pastor Ricky
13 Charles Bell and extend deepest condolences to all who mourn his
14 passing; 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 Pastor
18 Bell.