H.R. No. 794

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Ordained as a minister in 1970, Mr. Davis began his pastoral career at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Merriam, Kansas, and United Missionary Baptist Church in Kansas City, Missouri; he went on to earn a doctoral degree from Elbon-Solutions College of Ministry, and in 1986, he and his wife founded the Faith Christian Center in Austin; retiring after 16 years, he settled in Dallas, where he continued to serve as associate minister at St. John Church, Unleashed in Grand Prairie and Southlake; throughout his 44 years in the ministry, Dr. Davis impressed all who knew him with his intellect and his ability to recite hundreds of verses of scripture, whole chapters of the Bible, and many poems; and

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

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

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

Sherman, Sr.

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 794 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on April 30, 2021.

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Chief Clerk of the House