

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 116

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAMES

A RESOLUTION

To commend Elder John W. Burris, Sr., on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, Elder Burris was raised by his grandmother, Mamie Burris, in Folsom, Louisiana; as a child, he regularly attended church services and Sunday school where he developed strong Christian values; and

WHEREAS, later in life, Elder Burris joined Independence United Methodist Church in Hammond; he then returned home to Folsom and joined Midway Church of Christ Holiness USA to study under Elder Samuel Murray; in 1972, he began his own ministry, and after Elder Murray's passing, Bishop J.L. Burris appointed him pastor of Midway Church of Christ Holiness; under his leadership, the young adult choir was formed and a trustee board, building fund, and other ministries were established; and

WHEREAS, after serving Midway for nine years, Elder Burris joined Oak Grove Memorial Church of Christ Holiness USA in Tickfaw, Louisiana, under the leadership of Elder Willie Earl Dyson; after Elder Dyson's passing, Elder Burris was appointed pastor; in 1996, Oak Grove relocated from Tickfaw to downtown Hammond; Bishop Vernon Kennebrew then appointed Elder Burris as chairman of District #5; during his eight year tenure as district chairman, he served the community by teaching religious classes and counseling community members; and

WHEREAS, Elder Burris has been happily married to Lillie M. Brumfield for sixty-one years; together they have three children, Scherry Ferrill, Wanda Stuart, and John Burris, Jr.; seven grandchildren, Bradley, Sommer, Maya, Allen, John III, Journey, and Daren; three great-grandchildren, Autumn, Bradley, Jr., and Braylon; two sons-in-law, Glen and William; a daughter-in-law, Debbie; and a granddaughter-in-law, Heather; and

WHEREAS, Elder Burris made countless lifelong friends and exceeded the lofty expectations set for him during his thirty-eight year tenure as pastor of Oak Grove Memorial Church; his signature scripture verse, from II Corinthians 5:7, reads: "For we walk by faith, not by sight"; this passage is a fitting testament to his faith and devotion throughout his inspiring career; he is most deserving of recognition.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Elder John W. Burris, Sr., on the occasion of his retirement; does hereby recognize Elder Burris's lifelong dedication to the service of his church communities; and does hereby extend sincere wishes that Elder Burris enjoy comfort and prosperity in retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Elder John W. Burris, Sr.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES