

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 211

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARPENTER

A RESOLUTION

To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Bishop Charles Henry Milton Mason Gordon.

WHEREAS, Bishop Charles Henry Milton Mason Gordon was born on July 9, 1938, and was the fourth of seven children of Bishop W.K. Gordon, Sr., and Alma Richardson Gordon; he attended school in Tangipahoa Parish and graduated from Westside High School in Amite, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Gordon met the love of his life, Miss Wardine Mabry, while traveling on a bus to New Orleans to attend the Church of God in Christ State Sunshine Band meeting; he went on to share more than sixty-five years of loving marriage with her, and their union was blessed with four daughters; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Gordon began his gospel ministry in 1965, serving under the leadership of his father at Richardson Chapel Church of God in Christ in Baton Rouge; as a young minister, he enthusiastically worked to inspire the Scotlandville and Southern University communities and focused his early ministry on reaching young black men; and

WHEREAS, after realizing that an improved academic portfolio would be a valuable asset to his ministry, Bishop Gordon returned to college and earned a bachelor's degree in 1975; he then accepted a teaching position in the Tangipahoa Parish School System, and in 1980, he was appointed pastor of Richardson Chapel Church of God in Christ continuing his father's work in growing the church; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Bishop Gordon, the church experienced substantial growth; he introduced innovative and enterprising ideas aimed at elevating the church ministry and extending the reach of its message in the community; in 1986, he secured approval for the construction of a new church edifice that represented a new beginning for the Richardson Chapel Church family; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Gordon was appointed by the late Bishop James Earl Gordon to serve as the district superintendent of District No. 4 East Progressive in 1987; he faithfully served the district in this capacity for twenty-eight years and created countless opportunities to share the Gospel across the country and even overseas; and

WHEREAS, among his many roles, Bishop Gordon served as pastor of Lazard Temple Church of God in Christ in Greensburg, Louisiana, and First Church of God in Christ in Denham Springs, Louisiana; while under Bishop James Earl Gordon's administration, he served as the Amite-Baton Rouge area coordinator, chairman of the ordination board, state master of ceremonies, superintendent of buildings and grounds for the jurisdictional headquarters, and manager of Lighthouse Bookstore; he also brought unity and strength to the Louisiana East First Jurisdiction and assisted a successful campaign to acquire a multi-million-dollar, thirty-acre property which now houses the Louisiana East First Jurisdictional Headquarters at Saintsville; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Gordon was chosen by Bishop Alphonso Denson, Sr., to serve as the first administrative assistant to the bishop of Louisiana East First Jurisdiction in May 2015; two years later, he was appointed as auxiliary bishop in the Church of God in Christ, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Charles Henry Milton Mason Gordon leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Mother Wardine Mabry Gordon; daughters, Cheryl Denise Gordon, Debra Remonia Taylor, and her husband Frederick, Alma Marie Bamberg, and her husband Edwin, and Ursula Gordon-Higginbotham; grandchildren, Keesha Gordon, Gordon Taylor, and his wife Jessica, A'drianna Agbaraqwe, and her husband Jeffrey, James Pierre, Ericka Taylor, Joshua Taylor, and Charleston Higginbotham, and his wife Ashley; great-grandchildren, Peace Warrior Jones, Adaora Deannie Agbaraqwe, Zionne Grace Higginbotham, Love Indigo Jones, Amara Dea Agbaraqwe, and Reign Joy Higginbotham; sister-in-law, Joyce Dunn; "bonus" son, Nephew Robert Elton Gordon, and his wife Sharonda; sisters-in-law, Shirley Gordon, Mary E. Mabry, Shirley Mabry, Patricia Singleton, and Glynis Gordon; brothers-in-law, Willie E. Mabry and Eddie James Mabry; and a host of nieces, nephews, extended relatives and friends; he will be deeply missed, but his legacy of service and devotion to his faith community will live on forever.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Bishop Charles Henry Milton Mason Gordon and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that his family, friends, and loved ones find comfort in their shared memories of his beautiful life.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES