Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 128

## BY REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON

## COMMENDATIONS: Commends the Reverend Norah Banks, Jr., on thirty-five years of pastoring the largest black church in Arcadia

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To commend Reverend Norah Banks, Jr., the Dean of Pastors in the Arcadia area, on thirty-
3	five years of pastorship at New Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church.
4	WHEREAS, Reverend Norah Banks, Jr., has served as the shepherd of New Pilgrim
5	Rest Baptist Church in Arcadia, Louisiana, since May 1978 with pastoral devotion, and it
6	is appropriate to recognize the depth of his faith through his comforting and spiritual
7	leadership; and
8	WHEREAS, Norah Banks, Jr., was born in Homer, Louisiana, to Norah Banks, Sr.,
9	and Janie B. Wise Banks, attended elementary school at Homer Colored School, which later
10	became Mayfield High School, and graduated with his high school diploma in 1969; and
11	WHEREAS, in October 1973, Norah Banks, Jr., married the love of his life, Lillie
12	Ford Banks, and their union has been blessed with three daughters, Leslie, Laketha, and
13	Camill, and they now have nine precious grandchildren; and
14	WHEREAS, in June 1975, Norah, Jr., accepted his call to preach the Gospel under
15	the direction of Pastor Earnest George at the Rising Star Baptist Church of Homer,
16	Louisiana; and
17	WHEREAS, New Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, the largest black church in Arcadia,
18	named Reverend Banks as its pastor in 1978, and he has steadfastly and competently served
19	in that capacity ever since; and

1	WHEREAS, in August 1996, Reverend Banks organized and led the New Pilgrim
2	Rest Baptist Church family in the construction of a new church facility which was completed
3	in September 1997, and dedicated in November of that year; and
4	WHEREAS, under the leadership of Pastor Banks, New Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
5	has ordained five new ministries and the church motto "We are the church where we come
6	to worship and leave to serve", is a testament to the church's commitment to Christ and its
7	community; and
8	WHEREAS, Reverend Banks holds a bachelor's degree in theology from the United
9	Theological Seminary and Bible College, a theology degree from the Interdenominational
10	Theological Center of Morehouse at the Morehouse School of Theology, and an honorary
11	doctorate of divinity from St. Thomas Christian College; and
12	WHEREAS, as a community leader and ambassador for Christ, Pastor Banks has
13	served as a moderator of the Liberty Hill Baptist Association since 2010; and
14	WHEREAS, early in his ministry, Reverend Banks sang with Echoes of Harmony,
15	a local gospel quartet in Homer, and he currently sings with The Palmers, another gospel
16	group which has recorded "I Can't Go Back", a song which he wrote; and
17	WHEREAS, as pastor, Reverend Banks's devotion to prayer and service continues
18	to create an uplifting, uniting, and healing church and environment, and his many years of
19	successful service are the result of exemplary dedication to the church and its parishioners;
20	and
21	WHEREAS, for his thirty-five years of ministry, Reverend Banks is affectionately
22	and respectfully known as the Dean of Pastors in the Arcadia region, and it is appropriate
23	to recognize him and extend to him sincere and heartfelt appreciation as he continues to be
24	an inspiration to many.
25	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
26	Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Reverend Norah Banks, Jr., the Dean of
27	Pastors in the Arcadia area, for thirty-five years of dedicated service to New Pilgrim Rest
28	Baptist Church, does hereby recognize the good works and service that Reverend Banks has
29	given to the church and its parishioners, does hereby express gratitude on behalf of the many

- 1 lives that Reverend Banks has touched during his ministry, and does hereby extend to him
- 2 best wishes for health, happiness, and God's richest blessings in the years to come.
- 3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
- 4 to Reverend Norah Banks, Jr.

## DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

## Jefferson

HR No. 128

Commends Rev. Norah Banks, Jr., for his many years of service to New Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church.