

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 159

BY SENATOR TARVER

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Reverend Lonnie Hamilton Jr. for thirty-eight years of faithful Christian service as pastor of New Boggy Baptist Church in Bethany, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the Reverend Lonnie Hamilton Jr., a native of Caddo Parish (Rodessa, Louisiana) confessed his call to the ministry in February of 1973 at the Mount Canaan Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Harry Blake; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 1973, Reverend Lonnie Hamilton Jr. preached his first sermon declaring the Gospel that Jesus Christ is Lord; and

WHEREAS, in the history of Mount Canaan Baptist Church, it is noted that Reverend Lonnie Hamilton Jr. organized and led one of the largest Baptist Training Union (BTU) programs that unpacked the scriptures and what God requests of us as born again believers; and

WHEREAS, as Reverend Hamilton devoted himself to the study of God's word and committed to a ministry of serving the sheep, he assisted with the preaching ministry each second Sunday at the St. Mary Baptist Church under the pastoral leadership of the late Pastor Leon Bell in the Cooper Road area; and

WHEREAS, additionally, he supported the preaching ministry each fourth Sunday at the Calvary Baptist Church under the pastoral leadership of the late Pastor A. Blaze until 1980; and

WHEREAS, the New Boggy Baptist Church in 1980 received Reverend Hamilton as the eleventh pastor of this historical church where he has served faithfully for thirty-eight years; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Hamilton's tenure places him in a leadership role in the rich history of the New Boggy Baptist Church that was established in 1869, as the longest serving pastor; and

WHEREAS, with his announcement to retire from pastoring effective Sunday, May 27, 2018, Pastor Hamilton probably never thought he would serve long enough to raise his children, see them married, and then have grandchildren attending Sunday morning worship services with him; and

WHEREAS, more than half of his life has been committed to the New Boggy family for which the church members are eternally grateful; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Hamilton has been blessed abundantly with gifts that have allowed him to serve God, his family, his country in the United States Marine Corp, and the students of Southern University at Shreveport in the capacity of professor and chair of the social sciences department, with an unwavering commitment; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Hamilton's lifelong mission of service to God will culminate on May 27, 2018, and it is appropriate to recognize this man of God for his long and effective pastorship.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Reverend Lonnie Hamilton Jr. upon the occasion of his retirement after thirty-eight years of service as pastor of New Boggy Baptist Church in Bethany, Louisiana, and does hereby extend to him best wishes as he embarks upon the next stage of his life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Reverend Lonnie Hamilton Jr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE