

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 125

BY SENATOR BARROW

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Pastor Jesse Bernard Bilberry Jr. upon his retirement after 35 years of pastoral care and to congratulate this "Man of God" for his anointed and exemplary service to mankind in fulfillment of his God-given assignment.

WHEREAS, he is the oldest of ten siblings, born on May 12, 1929, in Marion, Louisiana, to the union of Rev. Jesse Bilberry Sr. and Joe B. Bilberry; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Bilberry Jr., at the early age of fourteen, confessed Christ and was baptized at the Blooming Grove Baptist Church in Farmerville, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, he received an honorable discharge in 1953 from the United States Army after having fought in the Korean War, between his educational attainments; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Bilberry Jr., attained a Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies and English from Southern University in 1951; an Master of Arts in Education from Louisiana State University in 1957; an Master of Arts in Theology in 1988 and a Doctorate of Theology in 1990 from Christian Bible College; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Bilberry Jr. wedded Verta Lee Hamilton on December 23, 1953, is celebrating sixty-six years and praying for more; and

WHEREAS, to this joyful union was born a daughter, Cassandra Gail Bilberry, who because she was obediently raised in accordance to God's child-rearing plans, the result is a God-fearing daughter who honors God with her life; and

WHEREAS, at twenty-six he became a trailblazer, becoming the youngest black principal of a school in the state, taking over at the segregated Tensas Rosenwald High School in St. Joseph, Louisiana, from 1956-1969; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Bilberry's career as an administrator included working in various positions such as the Director of the Freshmen Complex and in the Office of High School Relations at Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Bilberry Jr. accepted his call to the ministry in 1981 and accepted the pastorate calling of Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church on January 16, 1984; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Bilberry Jr. said "Teaching and pastoral care are among my strengths as a pastor" which he proved through his many awards, positions, and accomplishments earned during his pastoral service; and

WHEREAS, he has been recognized as Minister of the Year by the Early Risers Kiwanis Club, is a two-time recipient of M.A. Tally Walk on the Water Award from the Dept. of Christian Education Sunday School Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., been instrumental in building the Fourth District Congress of Christian Education while moving Christian Education from an idea to reality, awarded Frontiersman Award for leading missionary journeys to Dominica, West Indies, for twenty years and the directors' Mr. Christian Education Award from the Sunday School Publishing Board of National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., and received numerous awards for his administrative, educational, and teaching skills; and

WHEREAS, the members he shepherds are known for saying, "We thank God for his gift to Mount Pilgrim in the person of our pastor, Jesse Bernard Bilberry Jr."; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Jesse B. Bilberry Jr. stands as a tall timber exuding Godliness, humility, commitment, dedication, and perseverance as evidenced by his life of service.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Pastor Jesse Bernard Bilberry Jr. upon his retirement after 35 years of pastoral care and to congratulate this Man of God for his anointed and exemplary service for God's kingdom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Pastor Jesse B. Bilberry Jr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES