

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 123

BY REPRESENTATIVES KATRINA JACKSON, BADON, BARROW, WESLEY BISHOP, BROSSETT, BURRELL, COX, DIXON, FRANKLIN, GAINES, HONORE, HUNTER, GIROD JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, TERRY LANDRY, NORTON, PIERRE, PRICE, SMITH, THIERRY, ALFRED WILLIAMS, AND PATRICK WILLIAMS AND SENATORS BROOME, BROWN, DORSEY-COLOMB, GALLOT, GUILLORY, MORRELL, MURRAY, PETERSON, AND TARVER

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences upon the death of Bishop Keith Cornell Smith and posthumously commends him for thirty years of dedicated service in the ministry and to the community of Spartanburg, South Carolina

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Bishop Keith
3 Cornell Smith, and to posthumously commend him for thirty years of dedicated
4 service to God in the Gospel ministry.

5 WHEREAS, Ruben Smith, Sr., and Mrs. Frances Richardson Smith received with
6 joy their last-born gift from Heaven on October 19, 1964 in Cleveland, Mississippi; and

7 WHEREAS, as a child, when the young Keith Smith would play church with his
8 siblings, he would assume the role of the preacher, stirring his brothers and sisters to sing
9 and shout and as the make-believe preacher, he would preach the funerals of family and
10 neighborhood pets; and

11 WHEREAS, while on the playground of H.M. Nailor Elementary School in
12 Cleveland, Mississippi, Keith Smith heard the call from God to the ministry of preaching,
13 and answered that call at the tender age of ten; and

14 WHEREAS, Keith Smith preached his first sermon in 1974 on Christmas Day at
15 United Missionary Baptist Church in Cleveland, Mississippi, and was ordained on
16 January 12, 1975, to preach the Gospel; and

1 WHEREAS, fulfilling his call to the fullest, the Reverend Smith recorded the first
2 of four albums in 1975; the distribution of his singing and preaching on the medium of
3 recordings attracted the attention of churches, ministries, and radio stations, and he was
4 invited to preach at an August 1979 gospel music workshop conducted by gospel icon, the
5 late Reverend James Cleveland, in Detroit before a crowd of seven thousand attendees; and

6 WHEREAS, in August 2002, the Reverend Smith was consecrated as a bishop by
7 Grace International Fellowship in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and served on the council of
8 bishops of the ministry; and

9 WHEREAS, notwithstanding the early beginnings of his ministry, Bishop Smith was
10 a serious student of the Word of God, receiving a bachelor of theology degree from
11 St. Stephens Bible College in Los Angeles, California; a master of divinity degree and an
12 honorary doctor of letters from Morris-Booker Memorial College in Dermott, Arkansas; and
13 a doctor of divinity degree from Tennessee School of Religion in Memphis; and

14 WHEREAS, Bishop Smith relocated to Spartanburg, South Carolina, where he met
15 and married Gytanna Ellis, and together they established the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit
16 Bible Church, which features a children's daycare ministry, free after-school care for
17 underprivileged neighborhood children, a food pantry, a clothing ministry, and a home-
18 adoption program which provides monthly necessities for needy families; and

19 WHEREAS, at the age of forty-eight, God called Bishop Smith to his eternal home
20 on May 1, 2013, and his departure will leave a void in the hearts and minds of his family,
21 his congregation, and the community he so diligently served.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Legislature of Louisiana
23 do hereby express their most heartfelt sorrow and do extend their condolences upon the
24 death of Bishop Keith Cornell Smith, do hereby record for posterity many of the heights he
25 achieved in the unique call of the ministry on his life, and do hereby acknowledge the special
26 gifts he shared with the world in his thirty years service to God.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
28 to the family of Bishop Keith Cornell Smith.

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)]

Katrina Jackson

HCR No. 123

Expresses the condolences of the legislature upon the death of Bishop Keith Cornell Smith of Spartanburg, South Carolina and posthumously commends him for 30 years of dedicated service in the ministry and to the community of Spartanburg.