

1 HR67
2 166386-1
3 By Representative Bracy
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 31-MAR-15

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7
8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF BISHOP DR. GEORGE WASHINGTON
9 AYERS.

10
11 WHEREAS, we note the death of Bishop Dr. George
12 Washington Ayers with deep sadness and regret; his invaluable
13 life is commended and celebrated with tremendous thanksgiving;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Bishop Ayers was born November 24, 1927, in
16 Maben, Alabama, to the union of Lester and Rosie Ayers; he
17 graduated from Parker High School in Birmingham, Alabama, in
18 1945; in 1946, he married his beloved and devoted wife, Verley
19 Mildred Smith; their blissful union was truly an "Apostolic
20 Love Story" that spanned almost seven decades; and

21 WHEREAS, Bishop Ayers served with much honor and
22 distinction in the United States Army during World War II and
23 was awarded a Purple Heart while wounded on the Island of
24 Guam; and

25 WHEREAS, Bishop Ayers earned his Bachelor of Arts
26 Degree in Business and the Alumni Merit Award with honors from
27 Booker T. Washington Business College in Birmingham, Alabama,

1 his TH.B. Degree from the Bethel School of Theology in
2 Detroit, Michigan, his Master of Theology Degree from
3 Maranatha Bible College in Union, South Carolina, his Doctor
4 of Divinity and Doctor of Letters Degrees from the
5 International Bible Institute and Seminary in Orlando,
6 Florida, his Doctorate of Theology in 1990, and his Ph.D. in
7 Theology in 1994; and

8 WHEREAS, Bishop Ayers united with the Apostolic
9 Overcoming Holy Church of God, Inc., under the leadership of
10 his spiritual father, the late Bishop Jasper Roby, at the 17th
11 Street A.O.H. Church of God; and

12 WHEREAS, Bishop Ayers was called into the ministry
13 in 1950; over the years, he pastored churches including an
14 A.O.H. Church in Tuskegee, Alabama, the Pratt City A.O.H.
15 Church, the Phillips Temple A.O.H. Church of God in Mobile,
16 Alabama, Faith Tabernacle A.O.H. Church of God in Richmond,
17 California, and Cathedral of the Cross/New Jerusalem A.O.H.
18 Church of God in Birmingham, Alabama; he and his wife
19 established the first A.O.H. Church in California; and

20 WHEREAS, Bishop Ayers was appointed an Overseer and
21 became a member of the Executive Board of the A.O.H. Church of
22 God, which he served for 59 years, and he was consecrated to
23 the office of Bishop in the A.O.H. Church of God; he had the
24 distinction of being the only living Bishop that was
25 consecrated by the founder, Bishop William Thomas Phillips; in
26 2000, he was elected as the International Presiding Prelate of

1 the A.O.H. Church of God, Inc., by the National Executive
2 Board; and

3 WHEREAS, Bishop Ayers untiringly worked in the City
4 of Richmond and founded the Western Regional Bible College,
5 Western Regional Christian Academy Grades K-12, and the Faith
6 Tabernacle Child Care and Learning Center; in addition, he
7 spearheaded the renovation and modification of the Saints Home
8 in Mobile, Alabama, and devised plans to purchase the \$24
9 million Cathedral of the Cross; and

10 WHEREAS, on March 3, 2015, the day before his
11 passing, the Mobile City Council voted unanimously to name a
12 street in his honor; and

13 WHEREAS, survivors include a devoted and loving
14 daughter and son, La Tanja Ayers-Davis and Overseer Reginald
15 Davis; three caring grandchildren, Ephraim Lamar, George
16 Washington, and Octavia Faith; one brother, Eddie Ayers
17 (Delores); three sisters-in-law, Pauline Anderson, Marilyn
18 Anderson, and Mary Cooley Ayers; and a host of nieces,
19 nephews, other relatives, god-children, god-grandchildren, and
20 friends; and

21 WHEREAS, Bishop Ayers was a valued member of the
22 community; although his presence is greatly missed, his memory
23 is cherished in the hearts and minds of all those who were
24 fortunate enough to know him; now therefore,

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
26 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That while grieving the death of
27 Bishop Dr. George Washington Ayers, we are extremely grateful

1 for his abundant life, and we offer this resolution in highest
2 tribute to his inspiring legacy, as well as in heartfelt
3 sympathy to his family and friends.