

1 HJR47
2 205271-2
3 By Representative McClammy
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 20-FEB-20

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ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

COMMENDING REVEREND DOCTOR JEROME V. HARRIS FOR
OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT.

WHEREAS, we take great pride and pleasure in paying
tribute to the outstanding professional achievements of
Reverend Doctor Jerome V. Harris; and

WHEREAS, a native of Montgomery, Alabama, Reverend
Harris received his early education in the Montgomery Public
School System; his undergraduate studies were performed at The
Alabama State University where he majored in Business
Administration and Economics; he was named a distinguished
"Alumni On the Move"; he is a graduate of the Graduate School
of Banking at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge,
Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, a United States Army Veteran, Reverend
Harris served during the Vietnam War with tours of duty in
Vietnam as well as Thailand and Okinawa; he was honorably
discharged in 1969, and is the recipient of the US Army
Commendation Medal; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, he joined the Regions Financial
Corporation and received numerous awards during his
thirty-year tenure, including being named "Outstanding Alabama
Banker of the Year" in 1985; he retired as Senior Vice

1 President, Regional Group manager and Regional Economic
2 Development Officer in 2000; he was elected to the Board of
3 Directors of Baptist Health Hospital System in Montgomery,
4 Alabama, where he served as a distinguished member from 1990-
5 1994; and

6 WHEREAS, Reverend Harris has served as Senior pastor
7 of six AME Churches in Alabama during his forty-two years of
8 pastoral ministry, which include Saint Peter, Montgomery;
9 Quinn Chapel, Uniontown; Saint Joseph, Autaugaville; Saint
10 Paul, Troy; and Saint Paul, Montgomery - the home church of
11 Mrs. Rosa Parks who was known as the Mother of the Montgomery
12 Bus Boycott that launched the Civil Rights struggle for Voting
13 Rights in the South; and

14 WHEREAS, he last served as the Senior Pastor of
15 Historic Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in
16 Selma, Alabama - where the "Bloody Sunday" March for civil
17 rights across the Edmund Pettis Bridge began in 1965; at the
18 35th Commemoration of that memorable act, Reverend Harris
19 welcomed President William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton to Selma
20 and delivered the invocation to a nationwide television
21 audience during the bridge crossing ceremony; under his
22 pastoral tenure, he was instrumental in Brown Chapel being
23 designated as a National Historical Place by the United States
24 Parks Service; the honorable Bruce Babbitt, former Secretary

1 of Interior presented this designation to Reverend Harris on
2 behalf of Brown Chapel in Washington, D.C.; and

3 WHEREAS, in the year 2000 at the 46th Session of the
4 General Conference, Reverend Harris was elected a General
5 Officer of the Church and the 7th Executive Director of the
6 Department of Retirement Services; for the past twenty years
7 since his election, he has been responsible for the
8 administration and management of the retirement investment and
9 insurance programs sponsored by the Church; and

10 WHEREAS, under his managerial leadership, the
11 retirement investment portfolio has grown from \$47.5M to its
12 current value of approximately \$125M - a growth of more than
13 70 percent; he has been re-elected to this position at the
14 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2016 General Conferences without
15 opposition and by unanimous consent; and

16 WHEREAS, additionally, Reverend Harris is
17 responsible for the administration of the AMEC Group Life
18 Insurance Plan for the clergy and their families, currently
19 underwritten by the Principal Life Insurance Company as well
20 as the Connectional Stewardship Program for the Church; and

21 WHEREAS, Reverend Harris and his wife of forty-nine
22 years, the former Sandra Elaine Anderson of Houston, Texas,
23 are the proud parents of one son, Christopher and three
24 grandchildren, Iyana, Aiden, and Harper; now therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
2 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That it is a privilege to commend
3 Reverend Jerome V. Harris for exceptional professional
4 achievements, and this resolution is offered to him in deepest
5 admiration and appreciation, along with sincere best wishes
6 for all of his future endeavors.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was adopted by the House 27-FEB-20.

Jeff Woodard
Clerk

Senate

04-MAY-20

Adopted