

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

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

10  
11 WHEREAS, we take great pride and pleasure in paying  
12 tribute to the outstanding professional achievements of  
13 Reverend Doctor Jerome V. Harris; and

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

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

1           WHEREAS, in 1990, he joined the Regions Financial  
2 Corporation and received numerous awards during his  
3 thirty-year tenure, including being named "Outstanding Alabama  
4 Banker of the Year" in 1985; he retired as Senior Vice  
5 President, Regional Group manager and Regional Economic  
6 Development Officer in 2000; he was elected to the Board of  
7 Directors of Baptist Health Hospital System in Montgomery,  
8 Alabama, where he served as a distinguished member from 1990-  
9 1994; and

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

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

1 Parks Service; the honorable Bruce Babbitt, former Secretary  
2 of Interior presented this designation to Reverend Harris on  
3 behalf of Brown Chapel in Washington, D.C.; and

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

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

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

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

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
27 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That it is a privilege to commend

1 Reverend Jerome V. Harris for exceptional professional  
2 achievements, and this resolution is offered to him in deepest  
3 admiration and appreciation, along with sincere best wishes  
4 for all of his future endeavors.