

HR192 INTRODUCED



1 HR192

2 3JBAEVZ-1

3 By Representatives Drummond, Clarke, Jones, Bracy

4 RFD:

5 First Read: 11-Apr-24



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HR___ MOURNING THE DEATH AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CHIEF
APOSTLE CLEVELAND SYLVESTER SMITH.

WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the death on April 7, 2024, of Chief Apostle Cleveland Sylvester Smith of Mobile, Alabama, at the age of 82; his passing leaves a void in the lives of his loving family, many friends, and the community where he was highly regarded; and

WHEREAS, Apostle Smith was a native of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and a graduate of Rowan High School, Class of 1960; he spent summers in Mobile, Alabama, with his mother and stepfather and shared his musical talents with local Mobile Baptist churches; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, Apostle Smith was drafted into the United States Army where he served two years and was honorably discharged; he remained in Anchorage, Alaska, for more than a year before moving to Modesto, California, and again to Los Angeles, California; in 1968, he returned to Mobile and reunited with St. Peters Baptist Church and restarted his music ministry and played citywide for several Baptist choirs; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Apostle Smith became the Minister of Music for the Mt. Olive No. 1 Missionary Baptist Church; he suffered an unexpected illness and spent 23 days in the hospital; during his illness, he experienced death several



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29 times and became paralyzed; by miracle, God revived him each
30 time and he would recover his health; and

31 WHEREAS, in 1970, he organized an interdenominational
32 gospel music group, The Cleveland Smith Chorale, which grew
33 to over 125 members; they later incorporated and became a
34 nonprofit organization carrying God's message through song
35 and aiding the needy; in 1972, he accepted his calling and
36 preached his initial sermon at St. Peters Baptist Church and
37 studied Baptist Fellowship Seminary Classes at the Mobile
38 Extension of Selma University; and

39 WHEREAS, in 1974, St. John's Deliverance Temple,
40 Incorporated, was organized and continued the Chorale's
41 outreach; through St. John's Deliverance Temple, as its
42 Pastor, he was able to reach more people through more
43 mission opportunities, including ministries to the homeless,
44 home-bound, incarcerated, and those on death row; their
45 outreach expanded through Christian education with the
46 opening of St. John's Christian Academy in 1986, now called
47 St. John's School of Tomorrow; and

48 WHEREAS, Apostle Smith adopted three children;
49 daughters, Bernice and Latisha; and son, Kendrick; his three
50 children and five grandchildren will continue his legacy;
51 and

52 WHEREAS, although his presence will be greatly
53 missed, the memory of Apostle Smith will be cherished in the
54 hearts of all who knew and loved him; now therefore,

55 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
56 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Chief Apostle



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57 Cleveland Sylvester Smith is recorded with deep sadness, and
58 this resolution is offered in tribute to his life and
59 service to others, along with heartfelt sympathy to his
60 family, whose grief is shared by many.