

1 SJR12
2 173028-2
3 By Senator Figures
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 09-FEB-16

8 HONORING THE MOST REVEREND MICHAEL CURRY ON HIS
9 ELECTION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE 27TH PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE
10 EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT THE 78TH GENERAL CONVENTION.
11

12 WHEREAS, highest commendations are herein proudly
13 presented to the Most Reverend Michael Curry on his election
14 and confirmation as the 27th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal
15 Church, the first African American to be elected, at the 78th
16 General Convention in Salt Lake City on June 27, 2015; and

17 WHEREAS, Bishop Curry was ordained to the diaconate
18 in June 1978 at St. Paul's Cathedral in Buffalo, New York, by
19 the Right Reverend Harold B. Robinson and to the priesthood in
20 December 1978, at St. Stephen's, Winston-Salem, North
21 Carolina, by the Right Reverend John M. Burgess; and

22 WHEREAS, Bishop Curry embarked upon his calling in
23 the ministry as deacon-in-charge at St. Stephen's,
24 Winston-Salem, North Carolina, in 1978; he served as rector
25 from 1979 until 1982; in 1988, he became rector of St. James',
26 Baltimore, Maryland, and was later elected as the 11th Bishop

1 of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina on February 11,
2 2000; and

3 WHEREAS, Bishop Curry's ministry in the three
4 parishes is marked by the founding of ecumenical summer day
5 camps for children, establishment of family day care providers
6 and education centers, and brokering of millions of dollars of
7 investment in inner city neighborhoods; in addition, he served
8 as a member of the Commission on Ministry in each of the three
9 dioceses; and

10 WHEREAS, Bishop Curry took great measures to
11 transform the Dicoese of North Carolina to effectively spread
12 the Gospel in modern times, instituting a network of canons,
13 deacons, and youth ministry professionals to support his
14 vision and refocusing the Diocese on the Episcopal Church's
15 Millennium Development Goals through a \$400,000 campaign to
16 buy malaria nets that saved over 100,000 lives; and

17 WHEREAS, Bishop Curry has advocated social justice
18 issues such as immigration policy and marriage equality; he
19 has served on the boards of numerous organizations and has
20 developed a national ministry; he has been featured on The
21 Protestant Hour and North Carolina Public Radio's The State of
22 Things as well as on The Huffington Post and has served as a
23 speaker at conferences across the country; and

24 WHEREAS, Bishop Curry was born in Chicago and
25 attended public schools in Buffalo, New York; in 1975, he
26 graduated with high honors from Hobart College in Geneva, New
27 York; he earned the Master of Divinity Degree from the Yale

1 Divinity School in 1978 and has also pursued studies at The
2 College of Preachers, Princeton Theological Seminary, Wake
3 Forest University, the Ecumenical Institute at St. Mary's
4 Seminary, and the Institute of Christian Jewish Studies; and

5 WHEREAS, Bishop Curry earned honorary degrees from
6 Sewanee, Virginia Theological Seminary, Yale, and Episcopal
7 Divinity School; he has served on the Taskforce for
8 Re-imagining the Episcopal Church and as Chair of Episcopal
9 Relief and Development's Board of Directors; he has written
10 two books, Crazy Christians and Songs My Grandma Sang; and

11 WHEREAS, Bishop Curry and his wife, Sharon, are
12 blessed with two adult daughters, Rachel and Elizabeth; and

13 WHEREAS, with a servant's heart, Bishop Curry has
14 reflected immense honor upon the Kingdom of God, and he will
15 continue to attain tremendous heights in his ministry and
16 bless countless individuals as the Presiding Bishop of The
17 Episcopal Church; now therefore,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
19 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Bishop Michael Bruce Curry is
20 highly honored and commended, and this resolution is presented
21 to him in deepest admiration and appreciation, along with
22 sincere best wishes for the future.