

1 HR255
2 201792-1
3 By Representatives Drummond, Clarke, Jones (S) and Bracy
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 22-MAY-19

1 201792-1:n:05/22/2019:BH/bh LSA2019-1897

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8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF ELDER LEONIS SARAH CALDONIA
9 HIGHTOWER PRUITT.

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11 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the
12 death of Elder Leonis Sarah Caldonia Hightower Pruitt of
13 Whistler, Alabama; and

14 WHEREAS, her passing leaves a void in the lives of
15 her loving family, many friends, and the entire community,
16 where she was highly regarded; and

17 WHEREAS, Elder Pruitt was born on February 19, 1937,
18 in Mobile, Alabama, to Mary Elizabeth Burden and Leon Laurence
19 Hightower; and

20 WHEREAS, Elder Pruitt knew from a very young age
21 that she wanted to be a nurse; at the age of five, she helped
22 care for her aging grandparents, Sarah and Albert McNeil; at
23 the age of 16, she graduated from Central High School; years
24 later, she graduated with high honors in the first nursing
25 class of Bishop State Community College; at the age of 27,
26 after a divorce from her husband, John N. Pruitt, Sr., she was
27 a single mother who was very devoted to her six children; she

1 was a strong woman in Christ who reared and cared for her
2 children, siblings, and grandchildren; and

3 WHEREAS, in 2002, she received a Master's of
4 Divinity Degree from Interdenominational Seminary,
5 Incorporated; in 2009, she accepted her calling as a teaching
6 preacher and was ordained as an Elder of the Church of God; in
7 2014, she received the distinguished title of Edith Mitchell
8 Health Initiative Academy Achiever; and

9 WHEREAS, Elder Pruitt served diligently as Sunday
10 School Superintendent, Sunday School Teacher, Secretary of the
11 Church, the Sunday School Calendar, and the West Alabama
12 Sunday School BTU Congress; she was also a founding member of
13 the Love and Understanding Full Primitive Baptist Church under
14 the late Pastor Elton J. King, as well as a supporter and
15 staff member of Creek Side Missionary Baptist Church; and

16 WHEREAS, she was preceded in death by her parents,
17 Mary Elizabeth Burden and Leon Laurence Hightower;
18 grandparents, Sarah and Albert McNeil; sister, Gracie
19 McMillian; brother, Richard Hightower; nephew, Leon McMillian;
20 and nieces, Sonya Hightower and Jaleesa Hightower; and

21 WHEREAS, Elder Pruitt is survived by her daughters,
22 Jennifer McCord (Alonzo), Hedrice Banks (Harold), and Pamela
23 Hinds; sons, John Pruitt, Jr., (Paula), Joaquin Pruitt
24 (Shelia), and Paul Pruitt (Tomeka); 19 grandchildren; 17
25 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; three
26 siblings; blended grandchildren; blended great-grandchildren;

1 nieces and nephews; special in-laws; her dog; and a host of
2 other relatives and friends; and

3 WHEREAS, although her presence will be greatly
4 missed, the memory of Elder Pruitt will be cherished in the
5 hearts of all who knew and loved her; now therefore,

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
7 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Elder Leonis
8 Sarah Caldonia Hightower Pruitt is recorded with deep sadness,
9 and this resolution is offered in tribute to her life and with
10 heartfelt sympathy to her family, whose grief is shared by
11 many.