

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

MOURNING THE DEATH OF ELDER LEONIS SARAH CALDONIA
HIGHTOWER PRUITT.

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

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

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

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