

## HR86 INTRODUCED



1     HR86  
2     HDWD883-1  
3     By Representative Givan  
4     RFD:  
5     First Read: 05-Mar-24



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4 HR\_\_\_\_\_ COMMENDING DR. TOMMIE L. LEWIS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS  
5 RETIREMENT AS SENIOR PASTOR OF BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST  
6 CHURCH, PRATT CITY, BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA.

7  
8 WHEREAS, with great pride and special pleasure,  
9 highest commendations are conveyed to Dr. Tommie L. Lewis on  
10 the joyous occasion of his retirement as Senior Pastor of  
11 Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Pratt City, Birmingham,  
12 Alabama; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Lewis, called to the ministry and  
14 dedicated to be worthy of his calling, pursued his  
15 ecclesiastical education and earned his Bachelor of Arts,  
16 Bachelor of Theology, and Master of Divinity degrees from  
17 the Birmingham Easonian Baptist Bible College and the  
18 Universal Bible Institute in Brunswick, Georgia; Honorary  
19 Doctorate degrees were conferred on him from the Universal  
20 Bible Institute and the Easonian Baptist Bible College; and

21 WHEREAS, a native son of Alabama, Dr. Lewis began his  
22 service 52 years ago with his first pastoral assignment at  
23 the First Baptist Church, Carver, Bessemer, Alabama; he was  
24 called a few years later to shepherd the devoted  
25 congregation at Antioch Baptist Church in Gadsden, Alabama;  
26 he heeded the instruction to "go therefore and make  
27 disciples of all the nations" and the Holy Spirit guided him  
28 throughout the United States and across oceans to Europe,



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29 Africa, and Asia; and

30 WHEREAS, in 1982, Dr. Lewis journeyed to Birmingham,  
31 Alabama, to lead the devoted apostles of Bethel Missionary  
32 Baptist Church; during his tenure, Bethel experienced  
33 phenomenal growth; he organized, established, and maintained  
34 numerous ministries with an emphasis on building up the Body  
35 of Christ by evangelizing, equipping, empowering, and  
36 encouraging his flock to Exalt the Savior, Equip the Saints,  
37 and Evangelize the Sinner; under his tutelage, 53 sons and  
38 daughters have heeded the call go into the world and preach  
39 the gospel; and

40 WHEREAS, Dr. Lewis worked tirelessly and diligently  
41 in running the business of the church and retired the  
42 mortgage on the first sanctuary; only one and a half years  
43 later, the building was destroyed by a tornado; Dr. Lewis  
44 called out to the community and Bethel Emergency Management  
45 Agency led the way to community restoration and  
46 revitalization; the new sanctuary was dedicated and  
47 consecrated on August 24, 2014; and

48 WHEREAS, Dr. Lewis is affiliated with numerous  
49 religious and civic organizations and has been bestowed many  
50 awards and accolades, including, serving as Moderator of the  
51 Peace Baptist District Association, Chairman of the  
52 Birmingham Jefferson County Transit Authority, Board  
53 Chairman of the Jefferson County Committee for Economic  
54 Opportunity, and the founding administrator of the Pratt  
55 City Disaster Relief Center at the George Scott Elementary  
56 School; Pastor Lewis was Alabama's first faith-based



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57 recipient of the No Child Left Behind grant for a community  
58 learning center; he currently serves as the Superintendent  
59 of Missions of the Alabama State Missionary Baptist  
60 Convention and is a contributing member of the Northwest  
61 District Baptist Convention and the National Baptist  
62 Convention, USA; and

63 WHEREAS, Dr. Lewis has been the congregation's  
64 guiding light, preaching the Word of God with passion,  
65 power, and persuasion; his farewell worship service will be  
66 held Sunday, April 14, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.; now therefore,

67 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
68 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That it is an honor to commend and  
69 congratulate Senior Pastor, Dr. T.L. Lewis, on the joyous  
70 occasion of his retirement for his 42 years of dedicated  
71 ecclesiastical service to the congregation of Bethel  
72 Missionary Baptist Church, Pratt City, Birmingham, and this  
73 resolution is offered to him as evidence of our high regard  
74 and with best wishes for continued blessings, good health,  
75 and prosperity in his well-earned retirement.