

By: Senator(s) Jackson (11th), Jordan,
Thomas, Butler, Walls, Simmons, Jackson
(32nd), Williamson, Dawkins, Harden

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 636

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE OF BISHOP G.E.
2 PATTERSON, THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE CHURCH OF GOD
3 IN CHRIST (COGIC), THE VOICE THAT INSPIRED MILLIONS OF CHURCH
4 MEMBERS IN MISSISSIPPI AND WORLDWIDE, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY
5 OF THE LEGISLATURE ON HIS PASSING.

6 WHEREAS, in death even as in life, Bishop G.E. Patterson
7 commands an audience. The Presiding Bishop of the International
8 Church of God in Christ (COGIC) died Tuesday, March 20, 2007, but
9 admirers say the voice that inspired generations has not been
10 stilled; and

11 WHEREAS, the predominantly black Protestant denomination,
12 headquartered in Memphis, Tennessee, has six million members
13 worldwide and traces its origins to the late 19th Century; and

14 WHEREAS, it was a direct result of his work, such as his TV
15 ministries, that allowed people to see COGIC as it should have
16 been projected, according to jurisdictional Bishop Jerry Maynard,
17 the Chief Operating Officer of the National Church who had worked
18 with Bishop Patterson since 1992; and

19 WHEREAS, he always said if you represent God, you should
20 represent Him in a very positive way and not in a way that causes
21 people to question God or his ways. "Many people know him because
22 of his worldwide telecast and the kind of compassion and love and
23 faithfulness that he demonstrated," said San Diego Jurisdictional
24 Bishop George D. McKinney, a member of the COGIC General Board;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, he was born in Humboldt, Tennessee, and was ordained
27 as an Elder in COGIC in 1957 in Detroit, Michigan. Bishop
28 Patterson attended Lemoyne-Owen College in Memphis, Detroit Bible

29 Institute and held an honorary doctorate from Oral Roberts
30 University. He was a contributing writer of the Spirit Filled
31 Life Bible (KJV) and was the Editor and Publisher of *The Bountiful*
32 *Blessings Magazine* with a distribution list of more than 100,000
33 individuals; and

34 WHEREAS, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson was elected in 2004
35 to his second four-year term as Head of the International
36 Denomination; and

37 WHEREAS, in addition to television, Bishop Patterson
38 maintained a regular presence on radio. He was President of WBBP,
39 a 5,000-watt, 24-hour AM gospel station in Memphis with more than
40 100,000 daily listeners and a growing Internet audience; and

41 WHEREAS, the Bishop's daily "Words of Encouragement" aired
42 during the week, with recordings of his sermons broadcast on
43 Sundays. That's not likely to change in the foreseeable future.
44 "Bishop Patterson's popularity is such that it's hard to measure,
45 it was so great," said Doreen Graves, Director of operations at
46 the station. "He was a leader with a servant's heart and I think
47 that came through in his messages. People could relate to what he
48 said"; and

49 WHEREAS, Bishop Patterson also founded Podium Records, which
50 features a number of his musical recordings and sermons on compact
51 discs and cassettes; and

52 WHEREAS, the simple, biblical teachings of a small-town boy
53 who grew up to lead one of the largest Christian denominations in
54 the country are also found in his books, for sale at the church he
55 founded and at numerous retail and online sources; and

56 WHEREAS, Bishop Patterson represented faith, strength,
57 compassion, hope and love, not only in our community but also
58 throughout the world. While beyond question he was man of the
59 spirit, he was also a servant of the people. He fed the hungry,
60 housed the homeless and clothed the naked. His legacy will live
61 on forever in the hearts and minds of all who knew him and in

62 those whose lives he touched, and it is with great sadness that we
63 note the passing of this beloved religious leader who was highly
64 significant in the religious landscape of the State of
65 Mississippi:

66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
67 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
68 we do hereby commend the life of Bishop G.E. Patterson, the
69 International Presiding Bishop of the Church of God In Christ
70 (COGIC), the voice that inspired millions of church members in
71 Mississippi and worldwide, and extend to his family and his
72 congregation the sympathy of the Legislature on his passing.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
74 the Mississippi Jurisdictional Bishop of the Church of God in
75 Christ (COGIC) for transmittal to the surviving family of Bishop
76 Patterson and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.