

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Barnett, Fillingane,
Frazier, Jackson (11th), Jackson (32nd),
McDaniel

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 602

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION MOURNING THE PASSING AND COMMENDING
2 THE LIFE OF SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP OF CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
3 SUPERINTENDENT EMERITUS EARNEST JOSEPH JOHNSON AND EXTENDING THE
4 SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE TO HIS BEREAVED FAMILY.

5 WHEREAS, Church of God In Christ Superintendent Emeritus
6 Earnest Joseph Johnson was born on August 11, 1927, to the late
7 Jessie Johnson, Sr., and the late Maggie Ella Brock Johnson in
8 Crystal Springs, Mississippi. The Lord called him from labor to
9 reward on January 28, 2016, in Jackson, Mississippi, surrounded by
10 his family and members of his church family; and

11 WHEREAS, Superintendent Johnson received his education from
12 Mt. Zion Community School in Bolton. After serving in the Army
13 from 1952-1954, he received his high school diploma from Jim Hill
14 High School with assistance from the G.I. Bill of Rights. He
15 later matriculated through the Charles Harrison Mason System of
16 Bible Colleges and received a diploma in pastoral theology in
17 1978; and

18 WHEREAS, on October 12, 1946, Superintendent Emeritus Johnson
19 married his childhood sweetheart, Joe Mary Johnson, who preceded



20 him in death. To this union were born two sons, Earnest Johnson
21 and David Earl Johnson. In the year of his wife's death (2011),
22 the couple would have celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, after returning home from the Army, Superintendent
25 Johnson became the Pastor of Zion Chapel Church of God in Christ
26 in the Tabb Bottom Community in Jackson. In 1963, he was
27 appointed Pastor of his home church in Bolton, Mississippi, which
28 was then named Polk Hill Sanctified Church. He later changed the
29 name of the church to Zion Chapel Church of God in Christ and
30 served faithfully and dutifully for over 52 years. The indelible
31 impact of his ministry was experienced in several cities and towns
32 in Mississippi. He assisted the late Elder Steve Coleman at
33 Bethel Church of God in Christ in Edwards. He also served as
34 Pastor of Mt. Moriah Church of God in Christ in Mendenhall and St.
35 Mary Church of God in Christ in New Hebron, Mississippi. In
36 recognition of his loyalty and faithfulness to the Mississippi
37 Southern First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church of God in
38 Christ, he was appointed Superintendent of District 10 by the late
39 Bishop Theo Davis in 1984. In 1993, he was appointed
40 Superintendent of District 7 and served in this capacity until his
41 retirement in 2013. Bishop Hollis Musgrove also appointed him as
42 First Administrative Assistant in 1992. He served faithfully in
43 this position until his retirement in 2013. He also served for
44 numerous years as Chairman of the Board of Superintendents. He



45 was bestowed the honor of Emeritus Superintendent in 2014 by
46 Bishop Hollis Musgrove; and

47 WHEREAS, in addition to possessing many spiritual gifts,
48 Superintendent Johnson possessed countless natural gifts. As a
49 bonded and licensed contractor, he renovated and constructed many
50 houses and churches throughout the State of Mississippi. He was
51 most proud of his construction of St. Luke Church of God in Christ
52 in Vicksburg and Zion Chapel Church of God in Christ in Bolton.
53 He would often revel at the fact that he did not hire an architect
54 to design and draw the blueprint for Zion Chapel. He acknowledged
55 that the Lord gave him the blueprint for the building. It now
56 stands as a testament of the talents and skills of this most
57 gifted contractor; and

58 WHEREAS, Superintendent Johnson's passing leaves a tremendous
59 void in his family, local church, district and jurisdiction. His
60 legacy will live on through the many lives he impacted over his 88
61 years on earth. He was truly a spiritual giant in the gospel
62 ministry who was admired, trusted, respected and revered by all
63 who encountered him; and

64 WHEREAS, he leaves to cherish his memories two sons, Earnest
65 Johnson (Brenda) and Elder David Johnson, Sr., (Doris); five
66 grandchildren: Cortez Mounger, Ricardo Mounger, Roshunda Sterling
67 (Emmanuel); D'Ebonie Johnson and David Johnson, Jr.; two
68 great-grandsons, Samad Mounger and Ernest Fields, IV; five
69 brothers: Jimmie Richard, Tommie Richard, Eddie Richard,



70 Cornelius Johnson and Charlie Johnson; two sisters, Jo Ann Kelly
71 and Lula Johnson; stepmother, Vertis Johnson; two special nieces,
72 Ocey Graves and Willie Bell Thompson; and a host of nieces,
73 nephews, cousins and the Zion Chapel Church Family. He also
74 leaves a godmother, Alberta Brown; two goddaughters, Regina King
75 and Mary Williams; a great-goddaughter, Carmelita Williams of
76 Clinton; and two godsons, Douglas Williams and Edward Williams.
77 He was preceded in death by his parents, Jessie Johnson, Sr., and
78 Maggie Brock Richard; four brothers: Judge Johnson, Jessie
79 Johnson, Jr., William C. Johnson and Jessie Johnson; and five
80 sisters: Bessie Hill, Ella Mae Watts, Susie Johnson, Loree
81 Middleton and Marie Evans:

82 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
83 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
84 we do hereby mourn the passing and commend the life of spiritual
85 leadership of Church of God in Christ Superintendent Emeritus
86 Earnest Joseph Johnson and extend the sympathy of the Legislature
87 to his bereaved family.

88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
89 the surviving family of Church of God in Christ Superintendent
90 Emeritus Earnest Joseph Johnson and made available to the Capitol
91 Press Corps.

