



HR1346

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the Rev. Dr. Alan Vincent
4 Ragland on the occasion of his retirement as pastor from the
5 Third Baptist Church of Chicago after 26 years; and

6 WHEREAS, Rev. Ragland completed his undergraduate studies
7 at the University of Memphis; he received his Master of
8 Divinity from the Colgate Rochester Divinity School and earned
9 his Doctor of Ministry from the McCormick Theological Seminary;
10 he served as pastor of the New Fellowship Baptist Church in
11 Memphis prior to coming to Third Baptist Church as only the
12 second pastor in its history; and

13 WHEREAS, Rev. Ragland was ordained by the Progressive
14 National Baptist Convention, Inc. and the American Baptist
15 Churches, USA; he served as the first full-time
16 African-American faculty member at the Memphis Theological
17 Seminary and as a theological educator at the McCormick
18 Theological Seminary and the University of Chicago Divinity
19 School; during his term as chairperson of the Mission
20 Partnership Committee of American Baptist Churches of Metro
21 Chicago, he spearheaded a partnership with the Ghana Baptist
22 Convention in West Africa, where he traveled several times and
23 led a group of TBCoC members on a mission trip in 2009; he

1 served as a board member of several theological institutions,
2 including the McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, the
3 Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, North Carolina, and the
4 Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester, New
5 York; he was a founding member of United Power for Action and
6 Justice; and

7 WHEREAS, Rev. Ragland worked extensively for lay and
8 ministerial development; the first female ministers and
9 deacons at TBCoC were ordained under his leadership; during his
10 tenure, more than 25 persons have participated in the TBCoC
11 Ministers-in-Training Program, which he developed; he is
12 father-in-ministry to men and women in various clergy roles in
13 Chicago and nationally; he is a contributing author of Living
14 in Hell: The Dilemma of African-American Survival and wrote the
15 meditation for Psalm 95 in the African-American Devotional
16 Bible; and

17 WHEREAS, Rev. Ragland leaves the Third Baptist Church
18 having expanded its missional footprint substantially; the
19 congregation operates over three dozen ministries, including a
20 weekly food pantry, a faith-based care network of health and
21 wellness, grief share, Stephen Ministers, a youth development
22 program, a Christian Education Program, a seniors ministry, a
23 jail ministry, a variety of physical fitness options, college
24 scholarships and grants for over 20 consecutive years, and a

1 number of community partnership services such as the One Church
2 One School initiative and the implementation of interfaith
3 worship services with the B'nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim Jewish
4 congregation; he and the joint boards of Third Baptist Church
5 developed Heritage Community Development Corporation and
6 Quantum Faith non-profit organizations; he spearheaded the
7 ALIVE! Program and led TBCoC in construction of the TBCoC Life
8 Center; and

9 WHEREAS, Rev. Ragland is an inaugural member of the men's
10 branch of the Praise Dance Ministry of Third Baptist and has
11 danced faithfully for 10 years; he is a member of the church's
12 male chorus and a soloist for the combined choirs; and

13 WHEREAS, Rev. Ragland is married to Barbara Ollie Ragland
14 Ph.D.; he serves as vice president of The Lydia Group, founded
15 by his wife; they are the proud parents of one daughter,
16 Melanie Loren Ragland; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
18 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
19 congratulate the Rev. Dr. Alan Vincent Ragland on his
20 retirement as pastor from the Third Baptist Church of Chicago
21 after 26 years, and we wish him the best in all his future
22 endeavors; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to Rev. Ragland as a symbol of our respect and
3 esteem.