



HR0346

LRB098 12070 MST 45797 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Bishop Paul A.
4 Stewart Sr. on the occasion of his retirement as Bishop of the
5 Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (C.M.E.); and

6 WHEREAS, Bishop Stewart was elected the 50th bishop of the
7 Christian Methodist Episcopal Church on July 1, 1998, in the
8 Thirty-Third Quadrennial Session and the Thirty-Fourth General
9 Conference in Birmingham, Alabama; he was assigned to the Fifth
10 Episcopal District, comprising the states of Alabama and
11 Florida; in the Thirty-Fourth Quadrennial Session and the
12 Thirty-Fifth General Conference of the C.M.E. Church in
13 Atlanta, Georgia, from June 29-July 7, 2002, he was assigned to
14 the Third Episcopal District, covering the southeast Missouri,
15 Illinois & Wisconsin Region, the Michigan-Indiana Region, and
16 the Kansas-Missouri Region, with churches in 9 midwestern
17 states; and

18 WHEREAS, Bishop Stewart has served faithfully as a local
19 pastor of C.M.E. congregations and has been recognized as a
20 gifted counselor, educator, and administrator at institutions
21 across the U.S.; he has been an active participant in
22 community, ecumenical, civic, social, and civil rights
23 affairs; he has worked with the NAACP and is a life member and

1 has served on the NAACP Executive Board of Durham, North
2 Carolina; and

3 WHEREAS, Bishop Stewart has provided superior leadership
4 in the Third Episcopal District which includes Chicago and
5 surrounding communities; he has aided in the erecting or
6 purchasing of 6 modern churches and an Episcopal residence, the
7 renovating of numerous churches, the enabling of 10 ministers
8 to secure Doctor of Ministry Degrees, and the extensive
9 increase of Church Growth and Development Ministries; and

10 WHEREAS, Bishop Stewart is the Chaplaincy Endorsing Agent
11 for the C.M.E. Church, a member of the board of trustees for
12 Phillips School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia, the chair of
13 the Program Committee of the Annual CME Unity Summit, the chair
14 of the Board of Personal Service of the CME Church, vice-chair
15 of the Conference of National Black Churches, a member of the
16 board of trustees of Miles College in Birmingham, Alabama, and
17 an active leader in many religious and civic organizations; and

18 WHEREAS, Bishop Stewart is married to Mrs. M Earline
19 Stewart; they are parents of Gloria Jean Stewart-Wicks, Paul
20 Jr., and Shinar LaDonna Stewart-Parnell (Dana Parnell) and
21 grandparents of Kimberly D. Wicks, Dylan Andrew, and Noah
22 Jordan Parnell; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we congratulate Bishop Stewart on his retirement as Bishop of
4 the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and wish him all the
5 best in his future endeavours; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to Bishop Stewart as an expression of our esteem and
8 respect.