



HR0376

LRB102 18786 LAW 27485 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate the St. Paul Church of God in Christ on the occasion of its 85th anniversary; and

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WHEREAS, The St. Paul Church of God in Christ was established by Bishop Louis Henry Ford on the street corners of Chicago in 1934 and later organized in 1936; during its early history, the church became involved in the ecumenical and civic affairs in the city of Chicago, wherein food, clothing, shelter, and other forms of relief were provided for victims of disaster in the late 1930s; it also became recognized for its ability to secure employment and fight relentlessly for human and civil rights for African Americans in the 1940s; and

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WHEREAS, The St. Paul Church of God in Christ was led by Bishop Louis Henry Ford as its pastor and spiritual leader for nearly 61 years; he eulogized Emmett Till in 1955 and later spearheaded the reconstruction of Saints Junior College in Lexington, Mississippi; his dedication to the church and humanity brought acclaim, honor, and recognition to the church and its ministries; he concluded his assignment as the presiding bishop of the Churches of God in Christ on March 31, 1995; and

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1 WHEREAS, The St. Paul Church of God in Christ was next led
2 by Bishop Charles Mason Ford, who was immediately installed as
3 pastor upon his father's passing by Bishop Charles E. Blake
4 Sr. in 1995; his first mission was to memorialize his father,
5 and he was instrumental in having the stretch of I-94 known as
6 the Calumet Expressway be renamed the Bishop Ford Memorial
7 Freeway by the State in 1996, making Bishop L.H. Ford the first
8 African-American to have an Illinois expressway named after
9 him; under his administration, the church offered family-based
10 programming, including in-home care for infants and an
11 after-school program for elementary through high school
12 students, which complemented the Chaney Ford Child Care
13 Center; he oversaw the creation of the Margaret Ford Manor, a
14 60-unit independent, affordable senior living facility located
15 at 4500 S. Wabash Avenue, and the Victoria Jennings
16 Residences, a 24-unit building for the disabled located at 624
17 W. 61st Street; and

18 WHEREAS, On February 24, 2018, the St. Paul Church of God
19 in Christ installed Pastor Kevin Anthony Ford as pastor after
20 he served as assistant pastor for several years under the
21 auspices of First Jurisdiction Illinois on February; the
22 ceremony was officiated by Bishop Ocie Booker, Prelate; prior
23 to his promotion, he was appointed by his father Bishop
24 Charles Mason Ford to lead the workforce arm of the ministry to

1 enhance employment opportunities for the disenfranchised in
2 2000; he established the St. Paul Community Development
3 Ministries (SPCDM), a 501(c) 3 community-based organization
4 and pre-apprenticeship training program, and it has
5 successfully prepared over 200 individuals for entry into
6 registered Department of Labor apprenticeships for over 19
7 years and is recognized throughout the State of Illinois for
8 its unique training model and placement ability; and

9 WHEREAS, The St. Paul Church of God in Christ will
10 celebrate its 85th anniversary on June 13, 2021; therefore, be
11 it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
13 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we congratulate the St. Paul Church of God in Christ on serving
15 its parishioners and the community for the past 85 years, and
16 we wish the church continued success in the years to come; and
17 be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to Pastor Kevin Anthony Ford as an expression of our
20 esteem and respect.