

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 263

By Camper

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Bishop Dr. Bettye J. Alston of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Bishop Dr. Bettye J. Alston of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Bettye Alston was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Alston served with acumen and alacrity as the Pastor of New Beginning Ministries Church, and she was a retired registered nurse, having concluded her nursing career in 1987 as the director of nursing education at Regional Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Bettye Alston held a master's degree in divinity from Memphis Theological Seminary, two Doctorate of Ministry degrees from St. Paul School of Theology, and a doctorate in counseling psychology from Emmanuel Baptist University, and she earned consecration as a Bishop in 2007; and

WHEREAS, beginning her ministry with St. James African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, Dr. Bettye Alston left the AME Church in 1988 and started her own congregation, New Beginning Ministries Church of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in South Memphis; and

WHEREAS, in addition to leading New Beginning Ministries Church, she was the owner of, and a health management consultant for, Inside & Out Wellness Center, the president and CEO of New Beginning Counseling Center, a crown presidential director at First Fitness International, the owner of Miss Be Nea's House of Fashions, and the author of the self-help book *Building Bricks Without Straw: The Impossible Mission*; and

WHEREAS, a leader in her community, Bishop Alston was a graduate of Leadership Memphis and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; she and her husband hosted a

religious television program on public access cable and were major supporters of scholarship programs benefiting African-American students at Memphis Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, she was the recipient of numerous awards and accolades for her dedication to public service, including *Memphis Woman Magazine's* "50 Women Who Make a Difference" award and Girls, Inc.'s "She Knows Where She Is Going" award, in addition to numerous others; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Alston was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Bettye Alston enjoyed the loving companionship of and was preceded in death by her husband of more than thirty years, Reverend Neasbie Alston, and was the proud mother of eight children, grandmother of thirty-three grandchildren, and great-grandmother of forty-six great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Alston leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Bishop Dr. Bettye J. Alston, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Bishop Alston.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.