

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 424

By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Morris Jerome Taylor for thirty-five years of service as a volunteer in prison ministry.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those venerable individuals who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Morris Jerome Taylor is one such estimable community servant, who has inspired numerous people with his faith and leadership for thirty-five years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Taylor accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and personal Savior and received the Holy Ghost in 1976. This would be the beginning of a lifelong commitment of his service to the Lord; and

WHEREAS, on July 12, 1980, he married the love of his life, Linda Leake; and

WHEREAS, putting his carpentry skills to great use, he helped build Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ (COGIC), Greater Harvest COGIC, the Tennessee 5<sup>th</sup> Jurisdiction Headquarters, and also his own home; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Mr. Taylor began a prison ministry under Power House COGIC; he was licensed to preach in 1984 and was ordained in 1986, and would later begin to evangelize around the country; and

WHEREAS, Morris Taylor founded Word of Truth Outreach Ministries, trained as a prison ministry coordinator under Champion for Life Prison Ministry, and started the Word of Truth Prison Ministry; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, he joined the COGIC National Evangelist Department and established the West Tennessee State Penitentiary Sunday School Department; he also joined the COGIC National Chaplaincy; and

WHEREAS, utilizing his leadership skills, Mr. Taylor became an instructor for Prison Fellowship International and assisted the Temple of Deliverance telecast as a volunteer television ministry worker; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Mr. Taylor founded Save the Children Outreach in Henning, which set the stage for the outreach to extend to Memphis, Arkansas, and Missouri, and led to the Save the Children International Outreach in Nassau, Bahamas; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Lord blessed Mr. Taylor's ministry to receive a donated multipurpose church building and Dream Center, valued at more than half a million dollars; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Morris Taylor has received numerous awards, including the Key to the City of Ripley in recognition of his Juvenile Outreach Ministry, and certificates for his volunteer work from Angel Tree Ministry, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Prison Fellowship International. He also received government certificates from the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Tennessee, the governor of Tennessee, the Tennessee House of Representatives, the mayors of Memphis and Shelby County, the Memphis City Council, West Tennessee State Penitentiary, and Lake County Penitentiary; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are delighted to join in honoring this committed Christian and dynamic leader in the realm of church and civic life—an eminent citizen of Tennessee and of his community; 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 recognize and honor Morris Jerome Taylor for thirty-five years of service as a volunteer in prison ministry, and extend to him our sincere wishes for success in all his future endeavors.

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