

By Senator Gibson

9-02446B-13

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr., for a lifetime of service and expressing appreciation for his outstanding leadership in the faith community and the community at large.

WHEREAS, Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr., served as a choral member, music director, and deacon at Bethel Baptist Institutional Church before being called to succeed Reverend Robert Wilson as pastor in 1966, and

WHEREAS, the service of Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr., as pastor at Bethel Baptist Institution Church has spanned 47 years and allows him the distinction of being the longest serving leader of Florida's oldest African-American church, and

WHEREAS, in demonstration of his strong commitment to a quality education, Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr., earned a bachelor's degree from Edward Waters College and holds conferred doctoral degrees from Edward Waters College and Bethune Cookman University, and

WHEREAS, Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr., received additional training at the Tuskegee Institute, Columbia University, Princeton University, and Luther Rice University and Seminary, and

WHEREAS, in meeting and supporting the ever-changing needs and growth of congregants, now numbering more than 12,000, Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr., has established more than 50 ministries, including The Help Center, a Christian Mission, a marriage ministry, a church basketball league, youth retreats, and a missionary outreach program, and

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30 WHEREAS, the exemplary teachings and spiritual guidance of
31 Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr., have inspired more than 50
32 servant leaders to accept God's calling to the ministry, and

33 WHEREAS, in 1993, Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr., and his
34 wife of 50 years, Estelle, established the B.E.S.T. (Bethel
35 Enhancing Students Totally) Academy to support the needs of
36 elementary and secondary students, and under the leadership of
37 Estelle McKissick, B.E.S.T. has become a valuable community
38 resource and earned recognition as an approved summer school
39 site for Duval County's most academically challenged students,
40 and

41 WHEREAS, Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr., has held
42 membership on numerous boards and commissions, including
43 appointment to the first Board of Trustees at the University of
44 North Florida, the Jacksonville Urban League, and the YMCA James
45 Weldon Branch, and is a member of the NAACP and the Omega Psi
46 Phi fraternity, and

47 WHEREAS, in September 2011, Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick,
48 Sr., was elevated to Bishop of Marriage and Family in the Full
49 Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International, and

50 WHEREAS, Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr., now shepherds
51 his flock with his son and co-pastor, Bishop Rudolph McKissick,
52 Jr., and, together, they are partnering with ministries across
53 the globe, and

54 WHEREAS, the outstanding leadership and service of Bishop
55 Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr., has been recognized with numerous
56 awards, including the Meritorious Leadership Award, presented by
57 Dr. Martin Luther King, Sr.; the 1992 Silver Medallion
58 Humanitarian award, presented by the National Conference for

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59 Christians and Jews; and The City of Jacksonville's Human
60 Relations Award, and

61 WHEREAS, in addition to his exemplary professional career,
62 Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr., is also a dedicated husband to
63 his wife, Estelle Williams McKissick, loving father to his son,
64 Bishop Rudolph McKissick, Jr., and doting grandfather to his
65 grandchildren, Jocelyn, Janai, and Joshua, and

66 WHEREAS, with an abiding commitment to his faith in God,
67 enduring dedication to the Bethel congregation, and undying love
68 and faithfulness to his family and community, Bishop Rudolph W.
69 McKissick, Sr., has paved a pathway of service and gratitude
70 which will forever be remembered in the hearts and minds of the
71 Bethel Baptist Institutional Church congregation, NOW,
72 THEREFORE,

73

74 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

75

76 That Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr., is recognized for a
77 lifetime of service as the esteemed pastor of Bethel Baptist
78 Institutional Church in Jacksonville.