

By Representative Dennis

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House Resolution

A resolution celebrating the 80th anniversary
of the Holy Church of the Living God, Inc.

WHEREAS, after his coming into the knowledge of the
seventh day Sabbath, Bishop Rufus Abraham Reid Johnson began a
ministry known as the "Commandment Keepers Church," later
founded and organized The House of God, Holy Church of the
Living God, Pillar and Ground of The Truth, The House of
Prayer For All People, Inc., on March 10, 1918, and the church
was incorporated in Washington, D.C., on April 4, 1918, and

WHEREAS, the Holy Church of the Living God, Inc., is
one of the first Sabbath-keeping churches in the United
States, and

WHEREAS, the founder of the church, Bishop Rufus
Abraham Reid Johnson, was born on January 1, 1863, the son of
slaves, and

WHEREAS, the father of Bishop Johnson was born a slave
in New Bern, North Carolina, was owned by the Crawfords and
was known as Bill Crawford, was later sold to a Mr. Johnson of
Crawfordville, Georgia, and was known as Bill Johnson until he
and his wife were given to Mr. Johnson's daughter, Eliza, upon
her marriage to Mr. Ben Reid, at which time the couple became
known as the Reids, thus explaining how Bishop Reid acquired
his name, Rufus Abraham Reid Johnson, and

WHEREAS, Bishop Johnson presided for 22 years, until
his death on August 21, 1940, at the age of 77, and was
succeeded by Bishop Alaska Augusta Smith, and

WHEREAS, the national headquarters was moved from
Washington, D.C., to New York City where Bishop Smith presided

1 for nine years until his sudden untimely death following the
2 13th Annual Holy Convocation in 1949, and

3 WHEREAS, Bishop Smith was succeeded by Bishop Moses
4 Baker of Jacksonville, Florida, who was ordained to the
5 Bishopric August 28, 1949, during the 13th Annual Holy
6 Convocation held in New York City, and was appointed by the
7 board to succeed Bishop Smith as Chief Apostle during the 14th
8 Annual Holy Convocation held August 20-27, 1950, in
9 Jacksonville, Florida, and

10 WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate that the House
11 of Representatives of the State of Florida celebrate the 80th
12 anniversary of the founding of the Holy Church of the Living
13 God, Inc., NOW, THEREFORE,

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15 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
16 Florida:

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18 That the House of Representatives of the State of
19 Florida joins the residents of Jacksonville in commemorating
20 the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Holy Church of the
21 Living God, Inc.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution
23 be presented to the Holy Church of the Living God, Inc.,
24 located in Jacksonville, Florida, as a tangible token of the
25 sentiments expressed herein.

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