

HR 9069

2013

House Resolution

1
2 A resolution recognizing Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick,
3 Sr., for a lifetime of service and expressing
4 appreciation for his outstanding leadership in the
5 faith community and the community at large.
6

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

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

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

20 WHEREAS, Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr., received
21 additional training at Tuskegee University, Columbia University,
22 Princeton University, and Luther Rice University and Seminary,
23 and

24 WHEREAS, in meeting and supporting the ever-changing needs
25 and growth of congregants, now numbering more than 12,000,
26 Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr., has established more than 50
27 ministries, including The Help Center, a Christian mission, a

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28 marriage ministry, a church basketball league, youth retreats,
29 and a missionary outreach program, and

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.,
34 established the B.E.S.T. (Bethel Enhancing Students Totally)
35 Academy to support the needs of elementary and secondary
36 students and, with his wife of 50 years, Estelle, who has led
37 B.E.S.T. to become a valuable community resource, the academy
38 has earned recognition as an approved summer school site for
39 Duval County's most academically challenged students, and

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

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

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

53 WHEREAS, the outstanding leadership and service of Bishop
54 Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr., has been recognized with numerous
55 awards, including the Meritorious Leadership Award, presented by

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56 Dr. Martin Luther King, Sr.; the 1992 Silver Medallion
57 Humanitarian Award, presented by the National Conference for
58 Christians and Jews; and the City of Jacksonville's Human
59 Relations Award, and

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

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

72

73 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
74 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.