

Senate Resolution 1123

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Reverend Deacon Jimmie Flewellen; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Reverend Deacon Jimmie Flewellen's life and spiritual endeavors have been  
3 enriched through his deep conviction, spiritual consciousness, and the joy of the divine love  
4 of God that he possesses; and

5 WHEREAS, Reverend Deacon Flewellen is a loving husband to his devoted wife, Isabelle,  
6 a conscientious father to his son, Jimmie, Jr., and has been a faithful deacon at St. Jude  
7 Thaddeus for 34 years; and

8 WHEREAS, Reverend Deacon Flewellen was born August 4, 1926, in Columbus, Georgia,  
9 to Nancy and Eddie Flewellen, and was raised by his grandparents Nancy and John Davis;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, he graduated from high school in Columbus, Georgia, was drafted into the  
12 United States Army in 1945, and, upon completing his service, he returned to his old job in  
13 Saginaw, Michigan, and later moved to Chicago, Illinois; and

14 WHEREAS, he was baptized into the Roman Catholic Faith in 1960 and was ready to begin  
15 his spiritual journey, describing his passion for St. Thaddeus Church and his ministry as an  
16 indescribable feeling that could only be satisfied by learning more about his faith; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1970, he enrolled in a two-year training program in theology and formation  
18 and took a third year of continuing education, including black history, under the supervision  
19 of the Office of the Permanent Deacon, and in May, 1972, he was ordained a Permanent  
20 Deacon by the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago and assigned to St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic  
21 Church; and

1 WHEREAS, in 1985, the United States Department of Justice appointed Deacon Flewellen  
2 the first Black Catholic prison chaplain, and he served as a prison chaplain from 1985 until  
3 1993 in Springfield, Missouri, and in 1993, he was transferred back to Chicago to the  
4 Metropolitan Correctional Center as the head chaplain; and

5 WHEREAS, Reverend Deacon Flewellen received his Bachelor of Arts and his Master's  
6 Degree in Pastoral Studies in Ministry from Loyola University in Chicago, and was the first  
7 African-American recipient of the President's Degree from Loyola University; and

8 WHEREAS, Reverend Deacon Flewellen believes his St. Thaddeus family has had a huge  
9 influence on his faith, spiritual growth, zeal, and deep conviction to his ministry.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
11 join together to recognize Reverend Deacon Jimmie Flewellen and commend him on his  
12 outstanding ministry to his church, the community, the state, and the nation.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is hereby authorized and  
14 directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Reverend Deacon Jimmie  
15 Flewellen.