

House Resolution 190

By: Representatives Williams of the 89th, Mangham of the 94th, Collins of the 95th, Frazier of the 123rd, Stephenson of the 92nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Reverend Joel Leonard Miles, Sr.; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of the charismatic and influential Reverend
3 Joel Leonard Miles, Sr., on December 15, 2008; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Reverend Miles was born on January 1, 1936, in Boswell, Oklahoma, one of
5 ten children born to Isaiah and Lillian Miles; and
- 6 WHEREAS, with a driven work ethic and a passion for learning, Reverend Miles earned a
7 bachelor's degree in Art from Langston University, in Langston, Oklahoma, and three
8 master's degrees, in Theology from the Interdenominational Theological Center, in Sociology
9 from Long Island University, and in Pastoral Psychology from the American Institute of
10 Family Relations; and
- 11 WHEREAS, in 1962, Reverend Miles married Marsha Yvonne Reed and the couple had two
12 loving and joyful boys, Kevin and Joel, Jr.; and
- 13 WHEREAS, after spending time preaching to a small congregation in Oklahoma and
14 ministering to migrant workers in Florida, Reverend Miles joined the military in 1967 and
15 was commissioned as a Captain in the United States Army; and
- 16 WHEREAS, after losing Marsha to cancer in December of 1967, Reverend Miles married
17 Rose Mary Collins in 1969, and he was blessed with two daughters, Anna and Efia; and
- 18 WHEREAS, Reverend Miles dedicated 25 years of service to the military before retiring in
19 1993 as Lieutenant Colonel, spreading the gospel at every corner of the world he touched
20 during his time in the Army; and

21 WHEREAS, Reverend Miles was one of the few Black Chaplains in the Armed Forces
22 specializing in Pastoral Care and ministering to those who needed to hear the word of God;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, after retiring from the military, Reverend Miles moved to Atlanta, Georgia,
25 where he served as pastor of Midway CME Church and Sardis CME Church, later devoting
26 his time to Saint Paul AME Church as a Sunday school teacher and marriage counselor; and

27 WHEREAS, a man of quiet strength, Reverend Miles found joy in spreading the gospel and
28 serving as a witness to the awesome power of God's love; and

29 WHEREAS, Reverend Miles was loved by all who knew him and will long be remembered
30 by his family, friends, and neighbors whose lives he touched daily.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
32 this body hereby joins in honoring the life and memory of Reverend Joel Leonard Miles, Sr.,
33 and commending his many great achievements.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
35 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Reverend
36 Miles.