

## House Resolution 614

By: Representatives Frazier of the 126<sup>th</sup>, Howard of the 124<sup>th</sup>, Murphy of the 127<sup>th</sup>, Smith of the 125<sup>th</sup>, Douglas of the 78<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Deacon James Willie Sturgis, founder of the Bright Stars  
2 Gospel Singers; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Deacon James Willie Sturgis founded the Bright Stars Gospel Singers in 1940  
4 in Grovetown, Georgia, and has spent a lifetime answering God's call to be His messenger  
5 and do His will; and

6 WHEREAS, he started singing at the age of five in the cotton fields of Georgia, and at the  
7 age of six, he began singing and leading devotion at weekly church club meetings; and

8 WHEREAS, Deacon Sturgis was raised by his loving grandparents, and at the age of 14, he  
9 committed his life to Christ and joined Johnson Grove Baptist Church; and

10 WHEREAS, Deacon Sturgis was a devoted husband to his wife of 60 years, Georgia Ann  
11 Bennett Sturgis, and is a loving father to their eight children, Leroy, Elnora, Laura Ann,  
12 WonLee, Donald, Dorothy, Margueritt, and James Franklin; and, upon his first wife's passage  
13 to be with the Lord, he was a loving and devoted husband to his wife of ten years, Ella Eva  
14 Holliman Sturgis, before her passage also to be with the Lord; and

15 WHEREAS, the Bright Star Gospel Singers have based their ministry on the fundamental  
16 principle that "their singing would be more than just enjoyable entertainment; their songs of  
17 praise would draw people closer to God"; and

18 WHEREAS, the unmatched spiritual assistance offered by their angelic voices is a source of  
19 strength, inspiration, and direction for persons in spiritual need, and by the example they  
20 have made of their lives, they make this world a better place in which to live; and it is only  
21 fitting and proper that the founder of this enriched group of Christ's followers be  
22 appropriately recognized during this very special and memorable time.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
24 that the members of this body commend Deacon James Willie Sturgis, founder of the Bright  
25 Stars Gospel Singers, commend him for more than 80 years of devoted service to the Lord  
26 through music and his lifelong innumerable good works rendered on behalf of persons in  
27 need, and extend their sincere best wishes for future success.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
29 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Deacon James Willie  
30 Sturgis.