

House Resolution 595

By: Representatives Hugley of the 136th, Smyre of the 135th, Smith of the 134th, Buckner of the 137th, and Pezold of the 133rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Reverend James Calvin Harris, Sr., on the grand occasion of
2 his retirement; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Reverend Harris has demonstrated his commitment to teaching the Gospel,
4 witnessing Christ through word and deed, and addressing the physical, psychological,
5 intellectual, and spiritual needs of others for 64 years; and

6 WHEREAS, Reverend Harris was born in Lee County, Georgia, on April 7, 1925, a beloved
7 son of Elijah and Viola Harris and the seventh child of seven children; and

8 WHEREAS, Reverend Harris was united in love and marriage to Maggie Jefferson in 1944
9 and became the proud father of seven children and the grandfather of 11 precious
10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; and

11 WHEREAS, he was licensed to the Christian ministry on July 9, 1939, was ordained on
12 August 10, 1949, and has received numerous awards since then for outstanding Christian
13 service to his church, community, state, and country; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1985, Reverend Harris received the Best Congress Award for excellence in
15 the execution of the Program of Christian Education Department of the Sunday School
16 Publishing Board, National Baptist Convention, the highest award to be earned in the field
17 of Christian education; and

18 WHEREAS, he was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the South Columbus
19 Combined Communities Organization in 1991, the same year he received the Sergeant Major
20 Award for spiritual guidance to military personnel at Fort Benning, Georgia; and

21 WHEREAS, in 1992, he was instrumental in establishing a jailhouse ministry at the
22 Muscogee County Jail and received the S.N. Vass Award, which is the highest award in the

23 School of Christian Education from the Sunday School Publishing Board in Nashville,
24 Tennessee; and

25 WHEREAS, Reverend Harris has served with honor and distinction as the Senior Pastor at
26 Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church and his vision and unyielding commitment will be sorely
27 missed upon the occasion of his retirement; and

28 WHEREAS, his vision and direction have helped Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church grow in size
29 and influence, uplifting the community, and serving as a spiritual leader and place for
30 fellowship; and

31 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this enduring example of God's message
32 of peace and love be recognized and congratulated for his innumerable good works rendered
33 on behalf of persons in need.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 the members of this body congratulate Reverend James Calvin Harris, Sr., on the grand
36 occasion of his retirement and extend their most sincere best wishes for continued health and
37 happiness.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
39 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
40 Reverend James Calvin Harris, Sr.