

Senate Resolution 477

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

#### 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 SENATE that the members of this body  
35 congratulate Reverend James Calvin Harris, Sr., on the grand occasion of his retirement and  
36 extend their most sincere best wishes for continued health and happiness.

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