House Resolution 727

By: Representative Prince of the 132nd

A RESOLUTION

Recognizing and honoring Reverend Alvin Lewis Jr. as he steps down after 42 years as pastor of Mays Grove Baptist Church; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, Reverend Alvin Lewis Jr. is the oldest of nine children born to the late Dea. Alvin and Cleo H. Lewis of Louisville, Georgia, and he was the first Black graduate of the now-defunct all-white Louisville Academy High School; he has been married to Lynda Jean Daggett, of Augusta, Georgia, for more than 52 years; and

WHEREAS, for more than four decades, Reverend Alvin Lewis Jr. has served as pastor of Mays Grove Baptist Church on 1310 Mays Grove Church Road, Wrens, Georgia, establishing a legacy of leadership that members describe as both spiritual and hands-on; and

WHEREAS, Mays Grove Baptist Church was his second pastorate, and as his relationship with the congregation deepened over time, he became more and more certain that the Lord intended for him to be present in this place and at this time; and

WHEREAS, after high school, he matriculated and graduated from Paine College in Augusta, Georgia, with a Bachelor of Arts in business administration; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Alvin Lewis Jr. was called to lead the congregation at "The Lighthouse" in 1982, and during his distinguished and transformative tenure, he has changed the church schedule to meet every Sunday instead of once each month; ordained two ministers and seven deacons; baptized several members; built a fellowship hall with a baptismal pool; added central heating and cooling systems; purchased land for future development; purchased an electronic keyboard, a piano, and drums for the choir; started a Jr. Sunday school class and mid-week activities for the youth; started a monthly Sr. Citizens hour and luncheon, Wednesday night Bible study, and a food ministry; added a worship service each Sunday of the month; added on a bathroom and classrooms on the front of the church (2017); renovated the Pastor's Study and rear rooms of the church (2019); had the campus paved (2020); installed an audio/visual network (2020); and secured and established a 24X40 utility building to better serve our Food Bank Ministry Saturday distribution (2023); and

WHEREAS, upon stepping down in the coming months, Reverend Alvin Lewis Jr. will hold the title of Pastor Emeritus, leaving the church in excellent condition for the next pastor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the members of this body recognize and honor Reverend Alvin Lewis Jr. as he steps down as pastor of Mays Grove Baptist Church and extend best wishes for future health and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Reverend Alvin Lewis Jr. will have the opportunity for some well-deserved rest yet will continue to be a familiar face at Mays Grove Baptist Church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Reverend Alvin Lewis Jr.