

House Resolution 1757

By: Representatives Howard of the 129th, Myles of the 126th, Gilliard of the 162nd, and Reese of the 140th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Reverend Howard D. Harden; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the passing of Reverend Howard D. Harden of Spring Grove Baptist Church in
4 Hephzibah, Georgia, who peacefully transitioned on March 12, 2026; and

5 WHEREAS, Reverend Howard D. Harden was a devout servant of God, a faithful pastor, and
6 an indispensable pillar in the community; and

7 WHEREAS, following his graduation from the Burke County School System, he served as
8 a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United States Army, valiantly and
9 courageously protecting his fellow Americans; and

10 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Shirley, and was blessed with
11 seven remarkable children, 18 wonderful grand- and great-grandchildren, and one
12 exceptional great-great-grandchild; and

13 WHEREAS, after accepting the call to gospel ministry and being ordained in March 1989,
14 Reverend Howard D. Harden served for decades as pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church and

15 Spring Grove Baptist Church, guiding the spiritual, emotional, and mental growth of
16 countless congregants; and

17 WHEREAS, his life reflected unwavering faith, compassionate leadership, and a deep
18 commitment to shepherding and uplifting those he was called to serve—he touched countless
19 lives with his wisdom, encouragement, and guidance, leaving a lasting imprint on each
20 congregation he led; and

21 WHEREAS, beyond the pulpit, he was a loving husband, father, brother, uncle, and
22 grandfather whose steady presence and kindness brought comfort and inspiration to all of
23 those closest to him; and

24 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man who demonstrated his commitment to
25 witnessing Christ through word and deed, Reverend Howard D. Harden will long be
26 remembered for his love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who
27 had the great fortune of knowing him.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Reverend Howard D.
30 Harden and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
32 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
33 family of Reverend Howard D. Harden.