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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 453

Offered March 2, 2000

Commending the Reverend B. Courtney McBath.

Patrons—Robinson and Jones, J.C.; Senator: Miller, Y.B.

WHEREAS, the Reverend B. Courtney McBath is the founder and senior pastor of Calvary Revival Church in Norfolk, one of the largest and fastest-growing congregations in Hampton Roads; and

WHEREAS, founded by Reverend McBath and his wife, Janeen, Calvary Revival Church has grown from a membership of 21 ten years ago to 3,500 today; and

WHEREAS, as part of its mission, Calvary Revival Church devotes more than \$500,000 per year to mission projects and ministries; and

WHEREAS, among Calvary Revival's 30 outreach efforts are employment assistance, financial counseling, 12-step programs for alcoholics and addicts, and ministries to teenage girls in public housing neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, in an innovative effort to further expand the ministries of Calvary Revival Church, Reverend McBath announced a grant of \$10,000 to any small Portsmouth church willing to provide food and clothing to the poor, spiritual mentoring to children without fathers, and guidance to men who want to learn to be better fathers; and

WHEREAS, many such small congregations lack the financial means to offer the critical social services traditionally provided in part by the faith community, including feeding the poor and tutoring children; and

WHEREAS, Reverend McBath and the congregation of Calvary Revival Church hope in the future to offer the grant on an annual basis and to expand the offer to small churches in Norfolk; and

WHEREAS, through the generosity of Calvary Revival Church, the ability of small churches in Hampton Roads to provide needed outreach services to their communities will be greatly enhanced; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend the Reverend B. Courtney McBath on his generous and innovative proposal to provide financial incentive to the smaller churches in Hampton Roads; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Reverend B. Courtney McBath as an expression of the admiration and gratitude of the General Assembly for his exceptional spiritual leadership.

ENGROSSED

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