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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 489

Offered February 16, 2011

Celebrating the life of the Reverend McKinley J. Hamilton.

Patrons—Stanley; Delegate: Poindexter

WHEREAS, the Reverend McKinley J. Hamilton, a beloved pastor and civil rights leader from Rocky Mount, died on January 30, 2011; and

WHEREAS, a native of Louisiana, McKinley Hamilton was the son of Lincoln and Jennie Keys Hamilton and brother of Octavia; and

WHEREAS, after a short career as a professional boxer, McKinley Hamilton earned degrees from Butler Junior College and Bishop College before attending Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, McKinley Hamilton later received a master's of divinity degree from Howard University and an honorary degree from Ferrum College for his years of leadership and service; and

WHEREAS, a humble and wise man, Reverend Hamilton became pastor of First Baptist Church in Rocky Mount in 1958, serving the congregation and community with great faithfulness until his retirement in 1991; and

WHEREAS, a man of dignity and authority who strongly believed in equality for all, Reverend Hamilton, who was frequently described as the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., of Franklin County, was a moderating influence in the community as schools and other institutions were desegregated; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Hamilton led by example, taking an active role in many civic and charitable organizations in the community, including the NAACP, Red Cross, Support to Eliminate Poverty, Salvation Army, Youth Against Prejudice, and Voters League; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Hamilton influenced local youth as a substitute school teacher, helped local residents through his activity in the rescue squad, and provided uplifting words while transporting people to medical appointments and the pharmacy; and

WHEREAS, a respected pastor, Reverend Hamilton ministered the Baptist faith as a member of the Baptist Training Union and a moderator of the Pigg River Baptist Association; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Hamilton focused his time and attention on serving those around him with love, humility, and graciousness, leaving behind an enduring legacy that others may strive to emulate; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Hamilton will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his loving wife of 53 years, Mary; his numerous other family members; and the Rocky Mount community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of an influential pastor and esteemed citizen of the Commonwealth, the Reverend McKinley J. Hamilton; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of the Reverend McKinley J. Hamilton as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

INTRODUCED

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