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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 295

Offered February 10, 2014

Commending Bethel Restoration Center.

Patrons—Pogge; Senator: Norment

WHEREAS, Bethel Restoration Center, a church in Williamsburg that has passionately served the Lord and the community for over three decades, celebrates the 30th anniversary of the construction of its first sanctuary in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Bethel Restoration Center, originally known as Bethel Bible Way Church, was founded in 1981 when Bishop and First Lady Gray answered the call to better the community by spreading the news of the Lord; and

WHEREAS, the members of Bethel Bible Way Church enjoyed fellowship and worship in a variety of meeting places, including members' homes, funeral homes, shutdown nightclubs, and other local churches; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, Bethel Bible Way Church purchased land and built its first permanent sanctuary, allowing the congregation to increase by the hundreds; in 1999, the church was renamed Bethel Restoration Center to better reflect its mission and values; and

WHEREAS, the original church building ably served the ever-growing congregation until Bethel Restoration Center expanded to a new building with a seating capacity of over 850 and accommodations for various ministries; and

WHEREAS, Bethel Restoration Center maintains a strong outreach to the community through its ministries, including men's and women's ministries, a youth ministry, and a marriage ministry; and

WHEREAS, under the humble guidance of Bishop John N. Gray, Sr., the church has uplifted countless individuals in its history; known both locally and nationally for his dynamic leadership, Bishop Gray's vision and insight have inspired the members of the congregation to walk with God in all things; and

WHEREAS, for over 30 years, Bethel Restoration Center has succeeded in its mission to meet the needs of its congregation, offering acceptance, forgiveness, guidance, and love, while encouraging strong, personal relationships with the Lord Jesus Christ; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Bethel Restoration Center for 30 years of service to the community on the occasion of the anniversary of the construction of the church's first sanctuary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Bishop John N. Gray, Sr., pastor of Bethel Restoration Center, as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and admiration for the church's commitment to serving the needs of the community.

INTRODUCED

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