

# 2014 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 519

*Commending the Church of God in Christ in Virginia.*

Agreed to by the Senate, September 18, 2014

WHEREAS, the Church of God in Christ in Virginia, a branch of the largest Pentecostal church in the United States, has provided spiritual leadership and support to members of communities throughout the Commonwealth for 100 years; and

WHEREAS, established by Bishop Charles Harrison Mason in the Chuckatuck section of Suffolk in 1914, the Church of God in Christ in Virginia originally met at the Friendship Church of God in Christ in Suffolk; and

WHEREAS, after sending its first mission to Norfolk, the Church of God in Christ in Virginia grew rapidly, establishing new churches or converting congregations in Norfolk, Portsmouth, Newport News, Roanoke, Suffolk, Smithfield, Emporia, Richmond, Lynchburg, Staunton, Waynesboro, and other surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, as the Church of God in Christ continued to grow throughout the nation, several men were appointed as overseer in Virginia between 1915 and 1984—Caesar Wardell, A. J. Reed, J. E. Bryant, C. S. Cypress, William Dove, and D. C. Love; and

WHEREAS, under the able leadership of D. C. Love, the Church of God in Christ in Virginia grew from 24 missions and church buildings in 1935 to more than 100 churches by 1959; the church expanded into two jurisdictions in 1959, and a third jurisdiction was created in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Ted Thomas, Sr., the current overseer, was appointed in 1984, and he has helped the Church of God in Christ in Virginia continue to grow in membership, add new congregations, and renovate and expand existing church buildings; and

WHEREAS, the Church of God in Christ in Virginia serves community members through a wide variety of outreach programs and ministries, including hospital, jail, transportation, broadcast, and witnessing ministries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That the Church of God in Christ in Virginia hereby be commended for its spiritual leadership of communities throughout the Commonwealth on the occasion of its 100th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Church of God in Christ in Virginia as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's admiration for its storied history and many contributions to the Commonwealth.

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