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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 937

Offered February 23, 2015

Commending the Reverend Dr. Alonza Lee Lawrence.

Patrons—McClellan; Senator: McEachin

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Reverend Dr. Alonza Lee Lawrence celebrated 20 years of service and ministry as pastor of Moore Street Missionary Baptist Church in Richmond; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Alonza Lawrence, a native of Franklin, attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and received a bachelor's degree from Virginia Union University; he earned a master's degree from Virginia Union University and a doctoral degree from Union Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, the Reverend Alonza Lawrence assumed his first pastorate when he was called to lead Westwood Baptist Church; previously, he had served as an intern at the church and also had worked as youth minister and assistant to the pastor; and

WHEREAS, in November 1994, the Reverend Alonza Lawrence became the ninth pastor of historic Moore Street Missionary Baptist Church in Richmond; during his more than two decades as pastor, the congregation has grown and he has established many new ministries and outreach efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Alonza Lawrence is an active participant in local, regional, and international ministries and church organizations; he is a member of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia and has been president of American Baptist Churches of the South; and

WHEREAS, locally, the Reverend Alonza Lawrence has been president of the Jackson Ward and Vicinity Ministers' Conference and has made many valuable contributions as a member of the Baptist Ministers' Conference of Richmond and Vicinity; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Alonza Lawrence has completed the Pastoral Excellence Program of the Lott Carey Baptist Missions Convention, which gave him the opportunity to minister to people in Jamaica, Zimbabwe, Guyana, and South Africa; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Alonza Lawrence also is an educator; he has taught in the Richmond Public School system and at Virginia Union University; currently, he is an adjunct professor in the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology of Virginia Union University; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as pastor of Moore Street Missionary Baptist Church, the Reverend Alonza Lawrence has encouraged his congregation to seek new heights in their spiritual growth and development; he is a meek and humble man who enjoys working with many different groups and readily embraces new and innovative challenges; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Reverend Dr. Alonza Lee Lawrence on the occasion of his 20th year of service and ministry as pastor of Moore Street Missionary Baptist Church in Richmond; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Reverend Dr. Alonza Lee Lawrence as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and admiration for his many years of ministering to the congregation of Moore Street Missionary Baptist Church and to the people of Richmond, the Commonwealth, and the world.

INTRODUCED

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