

19103901D

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 330

Offered January 28, 2019

*Commending Bishop Curtis Eugene Edmonds, Sr.*

Patrons—Lucas and Locke; Delegates: Heretick and James

WHEREAS, Bishop Curtis Eugene Edmonds, Sr., a highly admired religious leader and a pillar of the Portsmouth community, will retire as senior pastor of St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church in 2019; and

WHEREAS, a proud Portsmouth native, Curtis Edmonds graduated from I. C. Norcom High School, served his country as a member of the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War, then earned a bachelor's degree from Norfolk State University; and

WHEREAS, Curtis Edmonds answered the call to ministry and became a pastor of St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church in 1992; under his able leadership, the church has created dozens of new ministries, grown from 350 to 2,400 members, and moved to a state-of-the-art, 52,200-square-foot facility; and

WHEREAS, after his retirement from Norfolk Naval Shipyard as an industrial engineer technician in 1993, Curtis Edmonds attended Virginia Union University School of Theology; he continued his studies at United Theological Seminary in Ohio and Boston University School of Theology and has preached in communities throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Curtis Edmonds earned the love and respect of his congregation for his kindness and generosity, and in recognition of his dedicated leadership and spiritual wisdom, St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church named him as the first bishop in the church's 115-year history; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his distinguished career, Curtis Edmonds has served as president of the Tidewater Metro Baptist Ministers' Conference, advisor to the Portsmouth Branch of the NAACP, and a member of the Portsmouth City Council from 2010 to 2016, and he has earned numerous awards and accolades for his personal and professional accomplishments; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Bishop Curtis Eugene Edmonds, Sr., on the occasion of his retirement as senior pastor of St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Bishop Curtis Eugene Edmonds, Sr., as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for his achievements in service to the Portsmouth community.

INTRODUCED

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