

2021 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 784

Offered February 2, 2021

Commending the Reverend Dr. Oretha P. Cross.

Patrons—Price, Mullin and Simonds; Senators: Locke and Mason

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Oretha P. Cross has served the Newport News community for five years as pastor of Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, providing outstanding spiritual guidance and community leadership; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cross holds degrees from Delta State University, the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, and Nova University and has developed a lifetime of expertise in strategic planning, transformational leadership, customer service, and project management; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cross previously worked in the private sector as an executive at Allstate Corporation, Apple, and Panasonic Corporation, from which she retired after 21 years of service to dedicate herself fully to ministry; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Dr. Cross became the first woman appointed as pastor of Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church in the congregation's long history; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cross holds numerous leadership positions in the Virginia Conference of the Second Episcopal District, with which she participated in a life-changing mission trip to Africa to dedicate a medical center for women and children; and

WHEREAS, a devoted and compassionate teacher, Dr. Cross has helped countless individuals grow stronger in their faith, hosting workshops, seminars, and retreats throughout the United States and around the world; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Reverend Dr. Oretha P. Cross on the occasion of her fifth anniversary as pastor of Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church; 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. Oretha P. Cross as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for her service to the residents of Newport News.

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