

2023 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 492

Celebrating the life of the Reverend Dr. Robert L. Pettis, Sr.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 16, 2023
Agreed to by the Senate, January 19, 2023

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Robert L. Pettis, Sr., an inspirational spiritual leader who strengthened the Richmond community, died on March 19, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Robert Pettis was born in San Francisco, California, and began to cultivate his deep faith at a young age; he was licensed to preach at the age of 16 and was ordained in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Robert Pettis graduated from Ravenswood High School in East Palo Alto and attended what is now Biola University; he subsequently earned a bachelor's degree from Bishop College in Texas, where he was an active member of Concord Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Robert Pettis relocated to the Commonwealth and enrolled at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology of Virginia Union University, from which he earned a master of divinity degree; he was later selected as one of the first candidates for the institution's doctor of divinity program and graduated with a focus in church management; and

WHEREAS, in May 1981, Robert Pettis became the pastor of Zion Baptist Church and helped the church grow in faith and number during more than 40 years of leadership; he established a wide range of ministries and outreach programs that helped empower and uplift members of the congregation and the wider community; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Robert Pettis joined the Parliamentary Law Club of Richmond and served as president of the organization for three years, as well as recently serving as chaplain; and

WHEREAS, Robert Pettis will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by his wife of 39 years, Palma; his children, Nichole, Ashley, and Robert, Jr.; and numerous other family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the loss of the Reverend Dr. Robert L. Pettis, Sr., a highly admired faith leader 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 family of the Reverend Dr. Robert L. Pettis, Sr., as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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