

1 State of Arkansas  
2 88th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2011

HMR 1002

4  
5 By: Representatives Fielding, G. Smith

6  
7 **HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

8 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF BISHOP WALLACE JOHNSON AND IN  
9 RECOGNITION OF HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIS LOCAL  
10 COMMUNITY.

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12  
13 **Subtitle**

14 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF BISHOP WALLACE  
15 JOHNSON AND IN RECOGNITION OF HIS MANY  
16 CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIS LOCAL COMMUNITY.

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18  
19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL  
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

21  
22 WHEREAS, Bishop Wallace Johnson was born November 19, 1935, in Calhoun  
23 County, Arkansas; was one of seven (7) children born to the late Len and  
24 Helen Green-Johnson; was well-respected in his community, city, and state as  
25 a man of wisdom; was a pastor's pastor and an advisor for the mayor and  
26 county judge; and many people came to him for his wisdom and advice in  
27 personal and professional matters; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, Bishop Johnson was educated in the public schools of Ashley  
30 County and Calhoun County, Arkansas, and later attended the C.H. Mason Bible  
31 School and the International Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia; and

32  
33 WHEREAS, Bishop Johnson was married to the lovely Erma Lee Golden on  
34 May 29, 1954; their union produced four (4) children, Clarence (Charles),  
35 Ray, Helen, and Margaret; and the Johnsons opened their home to many other  
36 families who had difficulties and who just wanted to be a part of the Johnson



1 family; and

2

3 WHEREAS, as a young man, Bishop Johnson had his first job when he was  
4 twelve (12) years old, cutting pulp wood for his father; his father, Len  
5 Johnson, was a self-employed contractor for his own timber company and also  
6 drove a transport truck for ten (10) years; Len Johnson's influence on his  
7 son was evident as Bishop Johnson later managed Williams trucking company for  
8 four (4) years and eventually started several businesses of his own as an  
9 entrepreneur; in 1962 he began his own trucking company and named it "E. L.  
10 Johnson Trucking"; and the business flourished as Bishop Johnson became a bi-  
11 vocational pastor in 1984; and

12

13 WHEREAS, Bishop Johnson gave his life to the Lord in 1949 and was  
14 called into the ministry in 1950; in 1954 he became an ordained minister  
15 under the leadership of the late Bishop W.H. Kendrick; served as District  
16 Superintendent from 1967-1998, as well as Chairman of the Budgeting and  
17 Finance Committee and First Administrative Assistant to Bishop D.L. Lindsey;  
18 and in December 1998 he was consecrated to the sacred office of Bishop and  
19 installed as the Jurisdictional Prelate of the Arkansas Fourth Jurisdiction  
20 by Bishop Chandler Owens, then Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in  
21 Christ; and

22

23 WHEREAS, Bishop Johnson began his pastoral ministry with only two (2)  
24 members in 1954 at the Mineral Springs Church of God in Christ in Mineral  
25 Springs, Arkansas; after building the membership to fifteen (15) after only  
26 one (1) year, he resigned; then became the pastor at St. Bethany Church of  
27 God in Christ, in Stephens, Arkansas, from 1955-1961 and started there with  
28 only fifteen (15) members and resigned with thirty (30) members; then became  
29 the pastor of Velie Church of God in Christ, in Camden, Arkansas, from 1961-  
30 1978 and started with twenty (20) members and resigned with seventy-five  
31 (75); and also pastored Willisville Church of God in Christ from 1961-1978;  
32 and

33

34 WHEREAS, in 1978 with only twenty-one (21) members, Bishop Johnson  
35 purchased the old First Assembly of God Church on Center Street in Camden,  
36 Arkansas, and named the church New Calvary Church of God in Christ; the  
church grew and many souls were blessed at this location; on July 26, 1996,

1 the building was destroyed by fire, but the church never missed a service;  
2 Bishop Johnson found a place to worship located at Lewis Temple Church of God  
3 in Christ and worshiped there until the new sanctuary was completed on July  
4 18, 1999; the name was changed to Greater New Calvary Church of God in  
5 Christ; and the church presently has approximately five hundred (500) members  
6 and is growing; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, Bishop Johnson has received many awards including the Camden  
9 Citizen of the Year award on September 5, 1998, and the Mayor's Award; was an  
10 active member of the Camden Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club; and  
11 served as a Board Member for CAIDC; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, his parents Len and Helen Green-Johnson preceded him in death,  
14 along with two (2) brothers, one (1) sister, and a foster granddaughter; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, he leaves to cherish his memories a loving and devoted wife of  
17 fifty-six (56) years, Mother Erma Johnson; his children, Elder Clarence  
18 Johnson and wife Rosie; Ray Johnson and wife Helen Johnson-Matheney; and  
19 Margaret Johnson, all of Camden, Arkansas; foster daughter Mary Ashby of  
20 North Little Rock, Arkansas; eight (8) grandchildren, Trendle, Claresha,  
21 Dana, Clarence Jr., Natalie, Keith Wallace, Marcus, and Erica; three (3)  
22 great-grandchildren; two (2) brothers, Hayward Johnson and wife Juanita, and  
23 Lloyd Johnson, all of Camden, Arkansas; two (2) sisters, Earsie White, and  
24 Sarah Beavers and husband Carter, all of Camden, Arkansas; and several  
25 nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends,

26  
27 WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the Eighty-Seventh General  
28 Assembly wishes to remember Bishop Wallace Johnson,

29  
30 NOW THEREFORE,

31 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL  
32 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

33  
34 THAT the House of Representatives recognizes Bishop Wallace Johnson's  
35 commitment, hard work, dedication, and service to his local community and  
36 commends him for his leadership.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the individual members of the House of Representatives hereby express sincere condolences to the family of Bishop Johnson, and upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy shall be provided to the family of Bishop Johnson by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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