



HR0963

LRB102 29220 MST 41170 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Bishop
4 Charles W. Gillespie Jr., who passed away on October 2, 2022 at
5 the age of 92; and

6 WHEREAS, Bishop Gillespie was born in Sandusky to the
7 union of Bishop Charles W. Gillespie Sr. and Cora Newberry
8 Gillespie on July 4, 1931; his family moved to Carbondale
9 after his birth; and

10 WHEREAS, Bishop Gillespie received his education at local
11 schools; he graduated from Attucks High School in 1948 and
12 joined the Armed Services, where he served his country bravely
13 during the Korean War; upon returning to the U.S., he moved to
14 Detroit, Michigan and married the love of his life, Addie Mae
15 Brooks, in 1961; they had a son, Sorrell Eugene Gillespie, in
16 1963; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1967, Bishop Gillespie and Addie began to
18 attend the New St. Paul Tabernacle Church of God in Christ in
19 Detroit, Michigan; he was ordained as an Elder in 1970, and
20 upon receiving his degree in Pastoral Theology from Charles
21 Harrison Mason Bible College in 1974, he was installed as the
22 First Administrative Assistant; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1976, Bishop Gillespie returned to his home in
2 Carbondale and began serving as his father's Second
3 Administrative Assistant; he was also appointed pastor of the
4 Greater Gillespie Temple Church of God in Christ; as a pastor,
5 he continued to serve as mentor for many at the Greater
6 Gillespie Temple Church and began contemplating establishing
7 churches across the nation; he was ordained as Bishop of the
8 March of Faith Outreach Ministries Fellowship in 1998, which
9 later became the March of Faith International Ministries; and

10 WHEREAS, Bishop Gillespie originally conceptualized the
11 March of Faith Outreach Ministry Fellowship in 1982; from
12 this, a yearly convocation was established, which subsequently
13 led to the formation of March of Faith Outreach Ministries
14 Fellowship; and

15 WHEREAS, The dream of a fellowship of churches was
16 realized in 1996 when Bishop Gillespie and Mother Addie M.
17 Gillespie called together former members of the Greater
18 Gillespie Temple Church family who had started their own
19 churches; following this reunion, the first March of Faith
20 Outreach Ministries Fellowship convention was held in July of
21 1997 in Carbondale; the following year in 1998, he was
22 ordained as Presiding Bishop of the March of Faith Outreach
23 Ministries Fellowship, later known as the March of Faith

1 International Fellowship; the ministry grew to over 200
2 churches across four different continents; and

3 WHEREAS, Bishop Gillespie served as the Presiding Bishop
4 of the March of Faith International Fellowship for almost two
5 decades from 1998 to 2017; he was a man of many talents and was
6 affectionately known to many as "The Dancing Bishop", "The
7 Singing Bishop", and "The Marrying Bishop", given his ability
8 for matchmaking; even more than his talents, he was known as a
9 man of strong character, a natural leader, and a father to
10 many; he delivered messages of hope, healing, and restoration,
11 as well as loving correction; and

12 WHEREAS, Bishop Gillespie retired to his home church in
13 Carbondale in 2017, where he continued to serve his faith; and

14 WHEREAS, Bishop Gillespie was preceded in death by his
15 parents; his brothers, William and Joshua Gillespie; and his
16 sisters, Ruth Finley, Gloria Dean English, and Ludora
17 Gillespie; and

18 WHEREAS, Bishop Gillespie is survived by his beloved wife
19 of 62 years, Mother Addie M. Gillespie; his son, Bishop
20 Sorrell E. (Pamela) Gillespie Sr.; his brothers, Elder
21 Cornelius (Arsteena) Gillespie and Richard Gillespie, his
22 sister, Mother Naomi Mims; his grandchildren, Minister Brandee

1 (William) Gillespie-Davis, Minister Sorrell E. (Dr. Christian)
2 Gillespie II, and Christopher Gillespie; seven
3 great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, relatives, the
4 March Of Faith Community Church Family, the March Of Faith
5 International Fellowship family, and numerous friends around
6 the world; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
8 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
9 we mourn the passing of Bishop Charles W. Gillespie Jr. and
10 extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends,
11 community, and all who knew and loved him; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to the family of Bishop Gillespie as an expression
14 of our deepest sympathy.