



HR0277

LRB103 31259 ECR 58317 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to recognize Bishop Lance Davis for his work in organizing the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus delegation's West African trip to Ghana in January 2023; and

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WHEREAS, From January 14, 2023 to January 23, 2023, the eight member delegation visited Accra, Ghana, a prominent African city that is rich in tradition, the homeland of many Illinois residents, the capital of Ghana, and the first African nation to gain independence from colonial rule; and

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WHEREAS, Highlights of the trip included meeting with Elizabeth Sackey, the first woman to serve as Mayor of Accra, visiting the U.S. Embassy in Ghana, and meeting with John Kufuor, the former President of Ghana; and

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WHEREAS, Bishop Davis served as a co-organizer for the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus delegation's trip to Ghana; and

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WHEREAS, Bishop Davis was born on the West Side of Chicago; while still in high school, he co-managed his father's organization, which included seven Popeyes chicken restaurants and two McDonald's restaurants; he then opened two

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1 Docks Seafood restaurants in the 1980s, where he insisted on
2 hiring marginalized young people in an effort to help them
3 learn a solid work ethic and workplace disciplines; and

4 WHEREAS, Bishop Davis completed his seminary studies at
5 the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC); after
6 serving as a pastor at the Christian Methodist Episcopal
7 Church for 12 years, he founded the New Zion Covenant Church in
8 Dolton in 2003, which was later brought into the Evangelical
9 Covenant Church (ECC) in 2010; he was elected as the executive
10 minister of Ordered Ministry of the ECC in 2018, thereby
11 becoming the first African American to hold the position in
12 its 135-year history; he was responsible for the supervision,
13 care, discipline, and development of nearly 2,500 pastors, 207
14 military, hospital, and prison chaplains, and 157 missionaries
15 serving on five continents before concluding his term in
16 mid-2022; and

17 WHEREAS, Bishop Davis has operated several successful
18 businesses while serving the church; in 2002, he established
19 the XGD Corporation, a construction company contracted by the
20 Chicago Housing Authority to rehabilitate hundreds of
21 low-income housing units; in 2010, he and his wife, Kara,
22 established Zion Behavioral Health in order to provide safe
23 and caring mental health services to the South Suburbs; in
24 2015, he established Kinsmen Development, securing one million

1 dollars in real estate financing to purchase and rehabilitate
2 nearly 20 dilapidated homes in Dolton; and

3 WHEREAS, Bishop Davis has also established several
4 not-for-profit agencies; he created Voices of Morality to
5 speak against police brutality and the unfair lending
6 practices of banks and other merchants; in 1996, he founded
7 Building Our Own Community, Inc. (BOOC), which has been
8 instrumental in feeding thousands of residents in the South
9 Suburbs, and opened the area's first robotics training program
10 for youth; in 2003, he and his family purchased the former
11 Dolton Expo Center, an 88,000 square foot multi-use facility,
12 where he has housed BOOC, the New Zion Christian Fellowship
13 Church, the Joseph Storehouse Food Pantry, and the Up-Scale
14 Rummage Sale resale shop and hosted many Christian hip-hop
15 concerts and events; and

16 WHEREAS, Bishop Davis has routinely invested in and given
17 back to Ghana; he established a water borehole drilling
18 company in Ghana, providing clean potable water for thousands
19 of Ghanaian villagers; in 2004, he founded Sankofa Venture,
20 which has a touring subsidiary, Sankofa US, that facilitates
21 and organizes travel to Ghana, West Africa for African
22 Americans who are interested in return, or heritage tracing,
23 journeys; to date, he and the Sankofa team have helped more
24 than 1,000 African Americans travel to Ghana; and

1 WHEREAS, Bishop Davis has received a number of accolades
2 for his work, including by former Secretary of State Jesse
3 White, the Chicago Defender online newspaper with the Pastor's
4 Salute Award, the Human Resource Development Institute, and
5 the Village of Harvey, which renamed Cooper Avenue as Bishop
6 Lance Davis Street; and

7 WHEREAS, Bishop Davis is a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi
8 Fraternity, Inc., a member of the Druids Club of Chicago, and a
9 board member of the African Diaspora Sixth Region Association
10 of Illinois; and

11 WHEREAS, Bishop Davis is married to Kara E. Davis, M.D.,
12 and they have four adult children, Grace, Andrew, Lance
13 Nathaniel, and Natalie Kara; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
15 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we recognize Bishop Lance Davis for co-organizing the Illinois
17 Legislative Black Caucus delegation's West African trip to
18 Ghana in January 2023; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to Bishop Davis as a symbol of our esteem and
21 respect.