



HR1088

LRB095 20236 GRL 46987 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
 3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Reverend William
 4 H. Copeland, Jr. on the occasion of his retirement as pastor of
 5 Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church in Kankakee; and

6 WHEREAS, Reverend William H. Copeland, Jr. was born in Winn
 7 Parish, Louisiana; after completing high school in Louisiana,
 8 he earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Missouri Western
 9 University in St. Joseph, Missouri; he also attended National
 10 College in Kansas City, Missouri, and the University of
 11 Missouri at Kansas City; he received theological training from
 12 Western Baptist College, Kansas City National Baptist, and
 13 William Jewel College in Liberty, Missouri; he holds an
 14 Honorary Doctorate of Divinity degree from Morris College and
 15 McKinley Theological Seminary; and

16 WHEREAS, Reverend William H. Copeland, Jr. was called to
 17 pastor Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church in 1971; under
 18 his leadership, the church erected a half-million dollar
 19 edifice in 1976, with the mortgage being fully satisfied in
 20 1986; the church then purchased and renovated what now serves
 21 as the Morning Star Community Center for \$300,000;
 22 additionally, the ministries of Morning Star have grown
 23 tremendously, and the church is currently recognized as a

1 positive and influential social and political icon in the
2 Kankakeeland community; and

3 WHEREAS, Reverend William H. Copeland, Jr. is active in
4 many civic and community organizations; he has served as
5 president of the Kankakee branch of the NAACP and served as
6 president of the Northeastside Ministerial Alliance; he is a
7 member of the Kankakee Interfaith Clergy and the Young Men's
8 Christian Association; and

9 WHEREAS, Reverend William H. Copeland, Jr. has been the
10 recipient of numerous awards; he received the Ebony Esteem
11 Award for "Man of the Year" and "Most Outstanding Man in
12 Religion" for Kankakee County in August of 1975; he was named
13 "Minister of the Year" by the Midwestern Illinois Laymen's
14 Fellowship; he has also been the recipient of an Illinois State
15 Police Community Service Award, a Kankakee Law Enforcement
16 Award, the NAACP President's Award for Outstanding Community
17 Service, the Dr. Martin Luther King Award from the City of
18 Miami, Florida, and Keys to the City of both Miami, Florida and
19 Kankakee; and

20 WHEREAS, A banquet will be held for Reverend William H.
21 Copeland, Jr. on Saturday, April 19, 2008 in honor of his great
22 contributions to the people of the Kankakee area; therefore, be
23 it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
3 congratulate Reverend William H. Copeland, Jr. on the occasion
4 of his retirement and wish him many happy and healthy
5 retirement years; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to Reverend William H. Copeland, Jr. as an expression
8 of our esteem.