

1 HR372  
2 192981-1  
3 By Representative Knight  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 08-MAR-18

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8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF PRESIDING ELDER JAMES EARL  
9 ARNELL.

10  
11 WHEREAS, it is with profound sorrow that we note the  
12 death of Presiding Elder James Earl Arnell of Montgomery,  
13 Alabama, at the age of 67 years; and

14 WHEREAS, his passing leaves a void in the lives of  
15 his loving family, many friends, and the entire community,  
16 where he was highly regarded; and

17 WHEREAS, Presiding Elder Arnell was born on  
18 November, 3, 1950, in Lewisburg, Tennessee, to Eva Jean Arnell  
19 and James Zapp; and

20 WHEREAS, a graduate of Pearl High School, Nashville,  
21 Tennessee, Presiding Elder Arnell earned his Bachelor of  
22 Science Degree in Sociology from Tennessee State University,  
23 and his Master's of Divinity Degree from Southern Baptist  
24 Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky; a licensed  
25 Mortician, he was a graduate of the John A. Gupton School of  
26 Mortuary Science; and

1           WHEREAS, his previous pastoral appointments include  
2           Saint Paul A.M.E. Church, Asland City, Tennessee, Shorter  
3           Chapel A.M.E. Church, Franklin, Tennessee, Young's Chapel  
4           A.M.E. Church, Louisville, Kentucky, and Saint John's A.M.E.  
5           Church, Montgomery, Alabama, where he served for 27 years  
6           until his appointment as Presiding Elder by Bishop Harry L.  
7           Seawright; and

8           WHEREAS, Elder Arnell served on the Episcopal  
9           Committee of the A.M.E. Church, served as past Director of the  
10          Christian Education Department for the 13th Episcopal District  
11          (Kentucky and Tennessee), a delegate to several General  
12          Conferences; he also served as Basileus of Gamma Phi Chapter,  
13          Omega Psi Fraternity, Nashville; and was member of the 32nd  
14          degree Mason organization; and

15          WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by grandparents,  
16          Virgil and Carrie Mae London; and father, James Zapp; and

17          WHEREAS, survivors include his beloved wife of 41  
18          years, Mrs. Arnetta J. Arnell; daughter, Anethia Theress  
19          Norris (Marcellus); mother, Eva Jean Arnell; father-in-law and  
20          mother-in-law, Joseph and Clara Lee; sister, Jennifer  
21          Zapp-Chaviest; brothers, James Zapp, Jr., Richmond Zapp  
22          (Constance), Robert S. Arnell, and Vincent Arnell; grandsons,  
23          London Nicholas Arnell and Marcellus Alexander Norris, II;  
24          brothers-in-law, Michael Earl Lee (Yvonne), Howard Dexter Lee  
25          (Sharlene), and Stephen A. Lee (Tracy); eight nieces and  
26          nephews; and special and devoted friends, Kenneth and Paula  
27          Jones, Joe and Tracy Kendrick, David and Allie Reddick, Bobby

1 and Angie Cox, Nathaniel Copeland, Kaye Underwood, Tony and  
2 Sabrina Gibson, David and Sarah Ross, and Marilyn Bibbins; and

3 WHEREAS, although his presence will be greatly  
4 missed, the memory of Presiding Elder James Earl Arnell will  
5 be cherished in the hearts of all who knew and loved him; now  
6 therefore,

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
8 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Presiding Elder  
9 James Earl Arnell is recorded with deep sadness, and this  
10 resolution is offered in tribute to his life and with  
11 heartfelt sympathy to his family, whose grief is shared by  
12 many.