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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 892

Offered April 1, 2025

Commending the Reverend F. Todd Gray.

Patron—Jones

WHEREAS, the Reverend F. Todd Gray has provided outstanding community leadership and wise spiritual counsel to Richmond residents as the transformational pastor of Fifth Street Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, a native of Chillicothe, Ohio, F. Todd Gray followed in the footsteps of his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather as a preacher shortly after his honorable discharge from the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, F. Todd Gray graduated from Ohio University and earned master's degrees from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University and Union Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his career, F. Todd Gray preached at Zion Baptist Church and New Hope Baptist Church in Ohio and First Baptist Church of South Richmond, Mount Olive Baptist Church of Wicomico Church, and Fifth Street Baptist Church in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, F. Todd Gray developed innovative ministries that helped his churches grow in faith and number and guided the congregations through building programs to update and expand church facilities; and

WHEREAS, under F. Todd Gray's leadership, Fifth Street Baptist Church in particular has experienced a great spiritual revival, with his emphasis on celebratory worship and community witness renewing the congregation's enthusiasm in community service and dedication to diversified ministry; and

WHEREAS, F. Todd Gray oversaw the expansion of mentoring programs and other partnerships with local schools, the development of community festivals and events like the community baptism at Hotchkiss Field, the establishment of the Northside District Community Development Corporation, a full-service health clinic, a child development center, and the multi-million dollar God's Redemptive and Community Empowerment Center; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, F. Todd Gray co-founded the Facts and Faith Friday, a partnership between Virginia Commonwealth University's Massey Cancer Center and the African American faith-based community; and

WHEREAS, F. Todd Gray has also provided his wisdom and expertise to the Richmond Commission on African American Males, the Shiloh Association, the Virginia Churches of the National Baptist Convention, the Private Industry Council, Richmond Renaissance, the United Way, and many other organizations, touching countless lives through his generosity, compassion, and dedication to service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Reverend F. Todd Gray hereby be commended for his exceptional service as pastor of Fifth Street Baptist Church; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Reverend F. Todd Gray as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for his legacy of contributions to the Richmond community.

INTRODUCED

HR892