**South Carolina General Assembly**

119th Session, 2011-2012

**H. 4411**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

House Resolution

Sponsors: Reps. Anderson, Agnew, Alexander, Allen, Allison, Anthony, Atwater, Bales, Ballentine, Bannister, Barfield, Battle, Bedingfield, Bikas, Bingham, Bowen, Bowers, Brady, Branham, Brannon, Brantley, G.A. Brown, H.B. Brown, R.L. Brown, Butler Garrick, Chumley, Clemmons, Clyburn, Cobb‑Hunter, Cole, Corbin, Crawford, Crosby, Daning, Delleney, Dillard, Edge, Erickson, Forrester, Frye, Funderburk, Gambrell, Gilliard, Govan, Hamilton, Hardwick, Harrell, Harrison, Hart, Hayes, Hearn, Henderson, Herbkersman, Hiott, Hixon, Hodges, Horne, Hosey, Howard, Huggins, Jefferson, Johnson, King, Knight, Limehouse, Loftis, Long, Lowe, Lucas, Mack, McCoy, McEachern, McLeod, Merrill, Mitchell, D.C. Moss, V.S. Moss, Munnerlyn, Murphy, Nanney, J.H. Neal, J.M. Neal, Neilson, Norman, Ott, Owens, Parker, Parks, Patrick, Pinson, Pitts, Pope, Quinn, Rutherford, Ryan, Sabb, Sandifer, Sellers, Simrill, Skelton, G.M. Smith, G.R. Smith, J.E. Smith, J.R. Smith, Sottile, Spires, Stavrinakis, Stringer, Tallon, Taylor, Thayer, Toole, Tribble, Vick, Viers, Weeks, Whipper, White, Whitmire, Williams, Willis and Young

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Introduced in the House on June 29, 2011

Adopted by the House on June 29, 2011

Summary: Elder Charles J. Graves

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

6/29/2011 House Introduced and adopted ([House Journal‑page 119](file:///h:\hj%20archive\2011\06-29-11.docx))

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[6/29/2011](file:///p:\pprever\2011-12\4411_20110629.docx)

**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND PRESIDING ELDER CHARLES J. GRAVES FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED CAREER AS A MINISTER AND PRESIDING ELDER OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH UPON HIS RETIREMENT.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure and gratitude that the House of Representatives recognizes individuals who are dedicated to succoring the souls of men; and

Whereas, Presiding Elder Charles J. Graves, a dedicated man of God, has spent a lifetime helping the saints “build up [themselves] on [their] most holy faith,” the past fourteen years being spent as presiding elder of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church; and

Whereas, having committed untold hours of Christ‑honoring service to his thriving flocks, Presiding Elder Graves has shown himself worthy of praise as both presiding elder and pastor; and

Whereas, born to Gaines and Everette Graves and raised in the Gresham community of Marion County, Charles J. Graves graduated from Allen University in Columbia and went on to Dickerson Theological Seminary, also in Columbia. Further education followed at the University of South Carolina and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia and at various seminars and workshops in the fields of alcohol and drug abuse, pastoral care, and the criminal justice system. He was ordained to the Gospel ministry in 1956; and

Whereas, his first appointment as a young preacher was the Mount Pisgah circuit in Horry County, which included two congregations. After serving there from 1958 to 1960, Reverend Graves moved to Dillon County, followed by Hartsville, before settling in at New Mount Zion AME Church in Bishopville, where he served for fifteen years; and

Whereas, for most of these early years, his salary did not cover the needs of a growing family, so he became a classroom teacher and assistant principal in the public schools. In addition, he was counselor and supervisor with the South Carolina Department of Youth Services for seventeen years; and

Whereas, in 1997, Bishop John Hurst Adams appointed Reverend Graves to the office of presiding elder of the Marion District AME Church, where he served for nine years. Bishop Preston Warren Williams II appointed Presiding Elder Graves in 2006 to serve as leader of the Mt. Pleasant District AME Church, where he will complete his active ministry at the annual conference in 2011; and

Whereas, as a result of his service and commitment, Allen University named him an honorary doctor of humane letters; and

Whereas, Presiding Elder Graves considers one of his crowning achievements as having had the good sense to marry Odessa Reaves Graves with whom he raised three fine children, Steven, Merritt, and Tracey, who have blessed their parents with four grandchildren; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives would like to extend congratulations to Presiding Elder Graves upon his retirement, as well as thanks for all he has done in service to his fellowman. The members trust he will find well‑deserved enjoyment in the more relaxing days ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and commend Presiding Elder Charles J. Graves for his distinguished career as a minister and presiding elder of the AME Church upon his retirement.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Presiding Elder Charles J. Graves.

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