

## 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are honored to recognize milestone events in  
4 the lives of the citizens of the State of Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, It has come to our attention that on July 3,  
6 2002, the Reverend Henry M. Williamson, Sr. was elected as  
7 the 52nd Bishop of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church,  
8 Presiding Prelate of the 9th Episcopal District; and

9 WHEREAS, Bishop Williamson was born in Arkansas, reared  
10 in Tennessee, and called to ministry in 1967 in Gary, Indiana  
11 at Israel Christian Methodist Church; he was ordained Deacon  
12 in 1968 and Elder in 1969 by Bishop J. Claude Allen; and

13 WHEREAS, Bishop Williamson earned his bachelor's degree  
14 in Sociology from Purdue University, his Master's of Divinity  
15 from Garrett Theological Seminary with an advanced degree in  
16 Clinical Pastoral Education, and an honorary Doctor of  
17 Divinity degree from United Theological Seminary; and

18 WHEREAS, Bishop Williamson is in his 35th year of  
19 pastoral service in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church  
20 which includes Pastor of West Side (Gary, Indiana), New Hope  
21 (Evanston, Illinois), Pilgrim Temple (East St. Louis,  
22 Illinois), Phillips Temple (Indianapolis, Indiana), and  
23 Central Metropolitan (Jacksonville, Florida); he is chairman  
24 of the Joint Board of Finance for the Southeast Missouri,  
25 Illinois, and Wisconsin Annual Conference; and

26 WHEREAS, Since 1986 as Pastor of the historic Carter  
27 Temple in Chicago, Illinois, Bishop Williamson's burden for  
28 growth developed the Abundant Life Ministry; there has been  
29 both spiritual and economic growth of the church; pride in  
30 the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church heritage and area  
31 colleges has motivated the congregation to send students to

1 the Christian Methodist Episcopal colleges and seminary;  
2 Bishop Williamson has helped develop a family atmosphere  
3 which cares for children, youth, and the elderly; outreach  
4 ministries such as More Like Christ (homeless program),  
5 African American male ministries (Boys to Men Choir,  
6 Christian Methodist Men, and Man-Boy Breakfast), the  
7 Sisterhood, scholarships, and television ministries (seen  
8 twice weekly in the Chicago area) help take Christ to the  
9 community; in addition, Bishop Williamson is the founder of  
10 One Church School which Christian Methodist Episcopal Church  
11 has embraced and made a national outreach ministry that  
12 involves churches and schools in partnership in teaching the  
13 value of life and the value of learning to our young people;  
14 he is also a former president of the Rainbow/Push Coalition;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Most proud of his family, Bishop Williamson and  
17 his wife of 28 years, the former Doris Yvonne Keyes, are the  
18 proud parents of Henry Jr., a graduate of Northwestern  
19 University and currently a financial analyst with LaSalle  
20 Partners of Chicago, and Kelli Daonne, a graduate of Chicago  
21 State University and currently a teacher in the Chicago  
22 Public Schools; they are also the proud grandparents of  
23 Jonathan, a source of much joy and happiness in their lives;  
24 therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
26 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
27 we congratulate Bishop Henry M, Williamson, Sr. on his  
28 election as the 52nd Bishop of the Christian Methodist  
29 Episcopal Church, Presiding Prelate of the 9th Episcopal  
30 District; and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
32 presented to Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Sr. as an expression  
33 of our esteem.