

A RESOLUTION honoring the Reverend Gary Arrington on the occasion of his retirement as pastor of Garner Baptist Church.

WHEREAS, the Reverend Gary Arrington is the founding pastor of the Garner Baptist Church in Rush, Kentucky. He has pastored the church for over 23 years since it became the fifth mission of Rose Hill Baptist Church. He preached his last sermon at Garner Baptist Church on December 28, 2015, and "gives all the glory to God for what has transpired"; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Gary Arrington decided to preach at Garner Baptist Church after Paul Badgett suggested the idea to him. Mr. Badgett, who was in charge of mission work for Rose Hill Baptist Church, made this suggestion at Star's Menswear while Gary Arrington was fitting him with clothes. Gary Arrington agreed that he would do the first service, and then second and third services followed. The next week, the church bulletin listed Gary Arrington as pastor of the church; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Arrington's wife, Deanna, fully supported her husband in his decision to quit working at Star's Menswear after 29 years and to accept the position of lay preacher at Garner Baptist Church. When he felt the calling to preach, Deanna, who had been Gary's high school sweetheart, said "we will do it together," and she became a vital part of the ministry. Deanna had an amazing faith and led by example, and until her death about two years ago, she was part of the team at Garner Baptist Church. With her tremendous support, Pastor Gary Arrington successfully ministered the church for more than 23 years; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Arrington's daughter, Gretchen Vanhose, is a best friend to her father and will be with him wherever God leads. Gary Arrington is also close to his granddaughter, Brianna, and his son-in-law, Bryan Vanhose; and

WHEREAS, the Garner Baptist Church received the Spurgeon Award in 2000 from the Billy Graham School of Evangelism at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. This award honors the top evangelistic church in middle America. The Reverend Gary

Arrington said that this award recognizes man, but also confirms the work of the Lord in changing people's lives. He has seen addicts become clean and people without hope find hope. The Garner Baptist Church is active in the community with jail and prison ministries, teaching Sunday school at the Ramey-Estep Homes, the Coalition for the Cure of Parkinson's Disease, and nursing home visits; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Gary Arrington was in Poland at a Baptist conference on September 11, 2001. The pastors went to the United States Embassy, where there was a crowd praying and praising God. That evening, he prayed with his congregation in Rush, Kentucky through the use of modern technology; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Gary Arrington looks back on his lengthy service at Garner Baptist Church with awe and reverence. Many members of the church have chosen to come there because of his evangelism and his shepherding of the flock;

NOW, THEREFORE,

***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

➔Section 1. This honorable body is indeed proud to honor the Reverend Gary Arrington upon the occasion of his retirement on December 28, 2015, and for his many years of dedicated service to his congregation, his community, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the Reverend Gary Arrington.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Senator Robin Webb for delivery to the Reverend Gary Arrington.