

New Business Agenda

2-4-20

**TESTIMONIAL
RESOLUTIONS
AND SPECIAL
PRIVILEGE**

Testimonial Resolution

Reverend Dr. Steve Bland, Jr.

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Steve Bland, Jr., is the Senior Pastor of Liberty Temple Baptist Church. Under his dynamic leadership, the church has grown to over 2000 members and 51 comprehensive ministries in the past 15 years. He is the former Pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church in Rockford, Illinois, where he served faithfully for 14 years. Rev. Dr. Bland entered the ministry full-time in the early 1980's as the Minister of Music, Youth Pastor and Assistant Pastor to the late Rev. Dr. Mac Charles Jones at the St. Stephen Baptist Church of Kansas City, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Prior to entering the ministry full time, Rev. Dr. Bland received a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy Degree from Northern Illinois University with a minor in Music. He then earned a Master of Divinity Degree in Pastoral Theology in 1989 from the Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Kansas, with special studies at Virginia Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, VA in 1988-1989. Rev. Dr. Bland currently holds high office with the Michigan Progressive Baptist State Convention; the Michigan District Baptist Association; the Progressive National Baptist Convention; and the African American Ministers Leadership Council. Rev. Dr. Bland also is an educator. He has served as an Adjunct Professor of Homiletics (Preaching) and Urban Ministry at Ecumenical Theology Seminary. He is the past Dean of the Greater Rockford District Association and Chairman of the Board, Rockford Ministers Fellowship School of Religion; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Bland is a noted community activist from his time in Rockford to the present day. He advocates for a myriad of community concerns, from fair housing to education initiatives. He is a well-renowned speaker, lecturer and revivalist, as well as an effective workshop clinician on various subjects such as leadership development and ministry preparation; and

WHEREAS, Sunday, January 26, 2020, commemorates the installation of Rev. Dr. Steve Bland, Jr., as the nineteenth President of the Council of Baptist Pastors Detroit and Vicinity. The Council of Baptist Pastors has been at the forefront of progressing public policy that increases education, reduces incarceration, and improves neighborhoods and will continue to do so under Rev. Dr. Bland's leadership; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council and Council President Brenda Jones commend Rev. Dr. Steve Bland, Jr., on his installation as the 19th President of the Council of Baptist Pastors Detroit and Vicinity. We wish him unwavering success in his leadership and the fulfillment of the theme for his presidency, "Looking Forward, Going Further, Climbing Higher."

Brenda Jones
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mary Sheffield
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

David L. Ayers
COUNCIL MEMBER

Scott Be...
COUNCIL MEMBER

Raquel Castañeda-Tópy
COUNCIL MEMBER

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COUNCIL MEMBER

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COUNCIL MEMBER

January 26, 2020

DATE



Testimonial Resolution



In Memoriam Command Sergeant Major Samuel S. Donahoo, Sr.

WHEREAS, We, the members of the **Detroit City Council**, join the family and friends of **Command Sergeant Major Samuel S. Donahoo, Sr.**, in honoring his life and legacy. Affectionately called Uncle Sam, **CSM Donahoo** made his heavenly transition on January 1, 2020. We pause to offer sincere condolences to his devoted wife, Yvonne; daughter, Lisa; and the host of family and friends who mourn his passing; **and**

WHEREAS, **Samuel S. Donahoo, Sr.**, was born on October 6, 1931, in Detroit, Michigan. He was the sixth child born to the late Coy Donahoo, Sr., and Lillie Mae Cox Donahoo. He attended Detroit Public Schools Higginbotham Elementary and Cooley High. While attending Cooley, he was a Cadet Captain in Jr. R.O.T.C.; one of the first of three African-Americans to earn a varsity letter in football; and elected to the Cardinal Chapter of the National Honor Society. **Samuel** then attended Wayne State University, Wayne County Community College and El Paso Community College -- where he received an Associate's Degree in Management; **and**

WHEREAS, **Samuel** was a life member of Oak Grove A.M.E. Church in Detroit, Michigan. He was baptized by the late Rev. Samuel Davis in 1932. He joined the church under the leadership of Rev. Robert Schely in 1947 and joined the Usher Board in 1960. **Samuel** was elected President of the Usher Board in 1989 and served in that role for 14 years. Additionally, he was a charter member of the Men's Mountain Top Ministry and regularly helped with the men's fish fry. One of **Samuel's** final honors at Oak Grove was to see the installation of the church's first female Senior Pastor, Reverend Cindy Carr Rudolph; **and**

WHEREAS, **Samuel** served in the military for 35 years. As a member of the Michigan National Guard, he was promoted to Master Sergeant. He was the first African-American and Michigan Guardsman to attend the U.S.A.S.M.A. at Fort Bliss, TX. And, **Samuel** was the first African-American in Michigan's history to achieve the rank of Command Sergeant Major; **and**

WHEREAS, Yvonne Howard was the love of **Samuel's** life. They married in 1957 and two beautiful children were born to this union. Daughter, Lisa, joins her mother in cherishing **Samuel's** memory, and son, Samuel, Jr., preceded him in death. **Samuel** also leaves his sister, Mary Elizabeth, and Godsons, Tyrone Marsh and Steven Counts, to treasure his legacy. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the **Detroit City Council** and Council President **Brenda Jones** join with family and friends to rejoice in the memory and celebrate the life of **Command Sergeant Major Samuel S. Donahoo, Sr.** His was a life well-lived!

Brenda Jones

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mary Stapp

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

Gabe Johnson

COUNCIL MEMBER

Gregory A. Johnson

COUNCIL MEMBER

Alvin B. Johnson

COUNCIL MEMBER

Scott B. Johnson

COUNCIL MEMBER

Andre J. Spivey

COUNCIL MEMBER

Raquel Castañeda-López

COUNCIL MEMBER

Joe G. Johnson

COUNCIL MEMBER

January 30, 2020

DATE