

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

SENATE
RESOLUTION 28

By: Monson

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution praising the career of the Reverend Epron J. Monson upon her receiving the Freedom Award from the Progressive Oklahoma Baptist State Convention; designating Friday, May 16, 2003, "Reverend Epron J. Monson Day" in the State of Oklahoma; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the Reverend Epron June (Provo) Monson was born in Cameron, Texas, to the late Artemus D. and Lovie (Nelson) Provo. The eldest of five children, three sisters and one brother, she moved to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at an early age with her family. Reverend Monson attended Oklahoma City public schools and graduated from Douglass High School. She attended Langston University and is a 1997 graduate of the American Christian College and Seminary with a Bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Monson was married to the late Herman Monson, Sr., for 39 years at the time of his death in May 1987. Reverend Monson is the mother of five children, one of whom is deceased. She receives her strongest support in her ministry from her family; and

WHEREAS, since her childhood, Reverend Monson has been very active in the church. She grew up in the New Hope Baptist Church where her grandfather, the late Reverend J.D. Provo, was the pastor; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Epron J. Monson established the Voice of Praise Radio Ministry in 1977. The radio ministry aired on two local radio stations and is currently aired every Sunday morning at

8:00 a.m. on KTLV (1220 AM). She was called to pastor the Voice of Praise Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in June 1991;

WHEREAS, the Reverend Epron J. Monson was Chaplain of the Week, April 27-30, 1992, in the Oklahoma State House of Representatives, becoming the first black female chaplain for that body. The Oklahoma State House of Representatives adopted House Resolution No. 1050 to commemorate the historical significance of the event, dedicated the legislative day of May 28, 1992, to her, and acknowledged and commended Reverend Monson for her outstanding contributions and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, in May 2001, for the first time in the history of the Progressive Oklahoma Baptist State Convention, a woman was elected to serve as President of the Convention. Reverend Epron June (Provo) Monson, an active participant in the Convention since its inception, was elected by its members and began her service as not only the first woman President in Oklahoma, but the first President of a Progressive Baptist State Convention in the entire Southwest region; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Monson assumed her duties as President in September 2001 and served faithfully and enthusiastically. However, in August 2002, Reverend Monson suffered a stroke and in September of 2002, she was affected by a second stroke. Since the strokes, Reverend Monson's recovery and progress has astonished her therapists, family, and friends. She has always maintained that God can and will work miracles; and

WHEREAS, although her mobility and speech have been somewhat reduced, Reverend Monson continues to be a faithful servant of God and of the Progressive Oklahoma Baptist State Convention. In recognition of this faithfulness, Reverend Monson is being awarded the Freedom Award during the 2003 Progressive Oklahoma Baptist State Convention. This top honor presented by the Convention is awarded

for commitment, dedication, and service to the Convention and the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate praises the Reverend Epron J. Monson for her long and productive career in the ministry and congratulates her upon receiving the Freedom Award from the Progressive Oklahoma Baptist State Convention.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate designates Friday, May 16, 2003, "Reverend Epron J. Monson Day" in the State of Oklahoma.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Reverend Epron J. Monson.

49-1-1558

THC

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