

2021 -- H 6473

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING REVEREND DOCTOR CARL H. BALARK, JR., AND HIS WIFE, SISTER  
ELLA J. BALARK, ON THE JOYOUS CELEBRATION OF THEIR 29TH ANNIVERSARY  
AS PASTOR AND FIRST LADY OF EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH

Introduced By: Representatives Ranglin-Vassell, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Hull, Alzate,  
Felix, Abney, Speakman, Chippendale, and J Lombardi

Date Introduced: June 25, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Pastor Balark's extraordinary leadership abilities, deep interest in church  
2 history and administration, and his love of people and abiding faith in the Lord were noticed by  
3 his parents, Eloise and Carl Balark, Sr., and many others when he was a young child growing up  
4 on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Thanks to the love and encouragement he received from his  
5 parents, he was able to further his education and fulfill his aspirations by attaining degrees from  
6 Morgan State University, the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, and Virginia  
7 University; and

8           WHEREAS, The Reverend Doctor Carl Balark, Jr., became the Pastor of Ebenezer  
9 Baptist Church in 1992, and thanks to his leadership and guidance, the church has grown in many  
10 important ways. Membership has increased and its mission impact has expanded exponentially  
11 both locally and globally. Members of Ebenezer Church are offered the opportunity to take part in  
12 missional ministry and evangelism activities, and thanks to Pastor Balark, staff and volunteers  
13 have been added to participate in inclusive ministries that serve the church, the wider community  
14 and the world. Missionaries from the church preach the Gospel across the globe and have  
15 established partnerships internationally with sister churches and a school; and

16           WHEREAS, Pastor Balark was the first African-American President of the Rhode Island  
17 State Council of Churches and has served as the first Moderator of the Greater Fellowship Baptist  
18 Association of Rhode Island and vicinity. Pastor Balark currently serves as the President of the  
19 American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island (ABCORI), and as a member of the Rhode Island

1 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission. He has also been recognized and honored  
2 by numerous organizations for his extraordinary leadership and service to the church and wider  
3 community; and

4 WHEREAS, Pastor Balark could not have accomplished all that he has as a church leader  
5 without the wise counsel and tireless work ethic contributed by his wife, Sister Ella J. Balark, in  
6 their thirty-six years of marriage. Mrs. Balark, known as "Lady Balark" within the Church, is also  
7 a native of the Eastern Shore of Virginia and holds multiple advanced degrees. She has worked in  
8 the Providence Public Schools as an inclusion math and science teacher, and presently, serves as  
9 the Director of the Ministry of Christian Education at the Ebenezer Baptist Church; now,  
10 therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
12 honors Reverend Doctor Carl H. Balark, Jr., and his wife, Sister Ella J. Balark, on the joyous  
13 celebration of their 29th Anniversary as Pastor and First Lady of Ebenezer Baptist Church; and be  
14 it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
16 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Reverend Doctor Carl H. Balark, Jr., and  
17 Mrs. Ella J. Balark.

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