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MOTION

Bishop Bennie Roberts Benbow's ministry began when he was born on January 14, 1917 in St. Louis, Missouri and passed away in Los Angeles on October 4, 2012. He was the third of twelve children born to Elder Sebastian and Mother Elizabeth Benbow.

In 1943, Bishop Benbow received his ministerial license under the Pastorship of the late Bishop D. Bostic in St. Louis, Missouri. He began his work as a national evangelist and settled in California in 1947. Bishop Benbow was highly favored of God to have worked with such great church leaders as the late Bishop E.B. Stewart and Bishop L.C. Page. While working with Bishop Stewart, Bishop Benbow received numerous appointments which taught him the work of the church such as Youth Pastor, Sunday School Superintendent, Evangelist Leader and, while laboring with Bishop L.C. Page, he became his assistant. In 1949, he married Rachel Jackson. Evangelist Rachel Jackson had one little daughter named Lillie who Bishop Benbow would teach to play the piano at a young age.

In 1952, one of many pivotal transitions occurred in Bishop Benbow's life when he became Pastor of his very first church named Philadelphia Church of God in Christ located on the corner of 51st and Compton Avenue in the City of Los Angeles. During Bishop Benbow's early years, he attended Life Bible College and Glendale Bible College in Los Angeles and in 1970, received his Doctor of Divinity Degree from Trinity Hall College and Seminary. Later in 1972, Bishop Benbow would also receive his Doctor of Laws Degree from Trinity.

In 1971, Bishop Benbow was nominated for "Man of the Year" Southern California Jurisdiction by the Religious Workers Guild of the Church of God in Christ. In 1974, Bishop Benbow received a Special Achievement Award, presented by the Religious Workers Guild of the Church of God in Christ. In 1975, Bishop received a Certificate of Commendation from the former Mayor of Santa Monica, Nathaniel Travis. In 1979, Bishop then received the second highest Special Achievement Award from the Religious Workers Guild of the Church of God in Christ, for Distinguished Service for Mission Work in West Africa. In 1980, Bishop was presented with a Certificate of Commendation by Mayor Thomas Bradley of Los Angeles, California (he would also declare January 16th as Bishop B.R. Benbow Day!). That same year, Bishop received another Certificate of Commendation from Beverly Hill's Mayor John Bambrick for his accomplishments as a Humanitarian and Religious Leader. Bishop Benbow was later presented with a Plaque and Gold Key, by the congregation of New Light for outstanding Pastoral Leadership. During the 1991 National Holy Convocation for the Church of God in Christ, Bishop B.R. Benbow received the highest award within the confine of the Church of God in Christ, the C.H. Mason Award. On February 13, 2000, with Congresswoman Maxine Waters as a special guest, Bishop B.R. Benbow, Leroy Williams and Freddie Meeks, survivors of the Port Chicago Disaster finally received their Day of Recognition. With six different Television News Channels in attendance, Bishop B.R. Benbow

In 1980 Bishop Benbow received his second Bishop appointment which is his most cherished. He



was appointed prelate for the Southwest Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of California by Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr. and the General Board. On January 30, 1981 at Page Temple Church of God in Christ, Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr. and the General Board for the Church of God in Christ, Inc. officially consecrated and installed Bishop B.R. Benbow as the Jurisdictional Bishop of the Southwest Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of California.

Years later, Bishop Benbow purchase property located at 8825 South Vermont Avenue in the heart of South Los Angeles. The neighborhood was plagued with violence and Bishop's ministry brought light and hope to that area. Bishop named the church Eighty-Eighth Street Temple Church of God in Christ and the church is still flourishing.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the intersection of 89th Street and South Vermont Avenue be named as "Bishop Bennie Roberts Benbow, Sr. Square" and that the Department of Transportation be directed to fabricate and install permanent ceremonial signs to this effect at this location, in consultation with Council District 8, in recognition of Bishop Benbow's legacy.

PRESENTED BY:


BERNARD C. PARKS
Councilmember, 8th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

DEC 12 2014