

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2021-4617, by Representatives Leavitt, Harris-Talley, Taylor, Ryu, and Bronoske

1 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives recognize the life and work
2 of Bishop Leo Charles Brown Jr., a man who dedicated his life to his
3 faith, to the improvement of the economic and social conditions of
4 the underrepresented and most vulnerable among us, and to the Black
5 communities of Washington state; and

6 WHEREAS, Bishop Brown was born June 17, 1942, in Washington D.C.
7 In 1961, after completing high school, Bishop Brown moved to
8 Washington State and served as a member of the Armed Services at Fort
9 Lewis. It was there that he found and embraced his faith. In 1965,
10 Bishop Brown joined the ministry and began his life's calling; and

11 WHEREAS, Bishop Brown transformed his faith into an instrument of
12 hope for struggling members of the community, particularly those
13 facing incarceration. His outreach and support began in 1968 when he
14 formed the Emmanuel Temple Prison Ministry, providing spiritual
15 guidance to persons inside prison. This began a lifelong commitment
16 to helping many individuals who entered our prisons; and

17 WHEREAS, Bishop Brown was a co-founder of Operation Longthrust, a
18 summer camp held at Camp Moran on Orcas Island. This summer camp
19 program provides 100 poverty-stricken children a year with the
20 opportunity to engage in a weeklong trip filled with learning and
21 recreational activities; and

22 WHEREAS, Bishop Brown founded the Progress House Association in
23 1972. The Progress House serves as a work release program, providing

1 opportunities for those exiting our prisons. Bishop Brown held fast
2 to this calling, and successfully launched work release programs
3 across many communities. Since its founding, the Progress House
4 Association has expanded to open facilities in Seattle, Port Orchard,
5 and Portland, providing more than 13,000 former inmates with work-
6 release opportunities; and

7 WHEREAS, Bishop Brown founded the True Vine Community Church of
8 God in Christ, a predominately Black Pentecostal church on August 24,
9 1975, in Tacoma, Washington. He spent 40 years building his
10 congregation and expanding the church to offer services including
11 kitchens, rest areas, and classrooms. The True Vine Community Church
12 of God in Christ has expanded to numerous ministries and auxiliaries
13 offering services and programs to community members of all ages.
14 Bishop Brown mentored 22 former ministers who have gone on to start
15 their own ministries and provide services to their own communities;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Bishop Brown has been recognized on numerous occasions
18 for his many contributions to the betterment of Washington State
19 communities, and for championing the pursuit of improving the
20 opportunities for the underrepresented and vulnerable members of
21 these communities. He is a recipient of the Key to the City of
22 Tacoma, honoree for the Rockefeller Foundation Humanity Award, and
23 was honored by Governor John Spellman and both houses of the
24 Legislature who declared February 6, 1982, as "Leo Charles Brown Jr.
25 Day"; and

26 WHEREAS, Above all, Leo Charles Brown Jr. was a dedicated family
27 man. He was a father and stepfather to 14 children, as well as a
28 grandfather and great-grandfather;

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
30 recognize and honor the service, life, and achievements of Bishop Leo
31 Charles Brown Jr.

32
33 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
34 Resolution 4617 adopted by the House of Representatives

35 March 23, 2021
36
37
38

1
2
3

Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk