

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 207

By Mitchell

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate First Baptist Church Joelton on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the many fine churches across this State constitute an institutional foundation for an orderly and just society for all Tennesseans, and their dedicated service to God and humanity is the bedrock upon which our State and nation are founded; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their steadfast faith in God and tireless ministry to their fellow man, enrich the lives of the people in their communities and beyond; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic and historic community of faith is First Baptist Church Joelton, whose members will honor its 100th anniversary on August 9, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the church was founded by twenty-three people who wanted to build a Baptist church in Joelton; calling it Joelton Baptist Church, they worshiped in a brush arbor and tobacco barn until the construction of the church was completed in 1916; and

WHEREAS, for twenty-five years, pastors conducted services at two churches simultaneously, preaching at each church on alternating Sundays; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, the church's membership had grown so much that the current building had to be torn down, and services were held in a large tent until a new sanctuary could be built; and

WHEREAS, the church officially changed its name to First Baptist Church Joelton in 1972; and

WHEREAS, the members of First Baptist Church Joelton have been led by many pastors, including C. W. Knight, L. S. Ewton, Frank Hale, M. E. Ward, C. H. Robinson, J. C.

Yelton, Hoyt Huddleston, Robert Earles, Livingston Mays, Phil Shelton, Grady Craddock, Wesley Walden, Charles Julian, Richard Simms, Sidney Waits, Herman Ellis, Truman Durham, W. D. Thomason, Murray Mathis, J. B. Miller, and Bob Old; and

WHEREAS, David Royalty became pastor of the church in 1990, and he and his wife, Linda Carol Royalty, have served faithfully for twenty-five years; and

WHEREAS, under Pastor Royalty's leadership, a new sanctuary was constructed in 1999, and several ministries were begun, including the 24 Church, New Season Church, and Barren Plains Hispanic Ministry, which serves tobacco field workers from Mexico; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church Joelton has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, striving to meet the spiritual and physical needs of its congregation, and providing love, hope, and healing to its community, for 100 years; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby join in celebrating the 100th anniversary of First Baptist Church Joelton, thank the good people of this remarkable congregation and their pastors for their notable service to their Lord and this State, and wish them much continued success and happiness for years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.