

2002 SESSION

ENGROSSED

020807540

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 114

Offered January 10, 2002

Prefiled January 9, 2002

Commending the Grove Avenue Baptist Church television ministry.

Patrons—Stosch, Lambert and Watkins; Delegates: Baskerville, Ingram, McDougale, Miles and O'Bannon

WHEREAS, Grove Avenue Baptist Church, named on March 6, 1890, for its former location on Grove Avenue, was founded in one of Richmond's earliest suburban developments; and

WHEREAS, the Grove Avenue Baptist Church radio ministry began in 1950, closely followed, in 1952, by a television ministry called "The Victory Hour" on WTVR-TV; and

WHEREAS, "The Victory Hour" was the first live broadcast of a Christian worship service in the South and the first regular church television program in the Southern Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, in October 1977, the Grove Avenue Baptist Church moved to the corner of Parham and Ridge Roads on the highest hill in the greater Richmond area, where broadcasts of "The Victory Hour" have continued; and

WHEREAS, WWBT-TV now broadcasts "The Victory Hour" on a weekly basis, and more than 50 cable television systems carry the program well beyond the limits of the broadcast signal; and

WHEREAS, thousands of viewers throughout central Virginia, many of whom are physically unable to attend, worship with the congregation every week through the television ministry; and

WHEREAS, regular broadcasts of "The Victory Hour" have been made possible through the tireless efforts of volunteers from the Grove Avenue Baptist Church congregation, under the direction of Reverend Mark Jenkins, media minister; and

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2002, "The Victory Hour" will celebrate 50 years of live television broadcasting as the longest-running program of its kind in America; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate the Grove Avenue Baptist Church congregation on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its weekly television ministry, "The Victory Hour"; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Dr. Mark Becton, pastor of Grove Avenue Baptist Church, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the remarkable record of service performed by "The Victory Hour."

ENGROSSED

SJ114E