

2006 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 252

Offered January 31, 2006

Commending Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church on the occasion of its 140th anniversary.

Patrons—Lewis, Alexander, Barlow, Bulova, Dance, Hall, Hull, Joannou, Johnson, Marsden, McEachin, Miller, Moran, Poisson, Scott, J.M., Shannon, Sickles, Tyler, Ward and Watts

WHEREAS, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Eastville, on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, celebrated its 140th anniversary in a special church service held on Sunday, January 8, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, called Wayman's Chapel at the time, was founded in Eastville on January 7, 1866, in a local schoolhouse; and

WHEREAS, Wayman's Chapel was the first A.M.E. Church in Northampton County and the Reverend John Offer became its first pastor; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Offer served the church from 1866 to 1871 and again from 1885 to 1888, and was instrumental in building the first meeting house and parsonage; and

WHEREAS, thirty-six distinguished ministers have served Bethel A.M.E. Church over its long history, and each provided spiritual guidance and encouraged growth in the church; and

WHEREAS, in 1901 the present Bethel A.M.E. Church building was completed, enabling the congregation to better serve the needs of members and the community; and

WHEREAS, Bethel A.M.E. Church has been an inspirational, compassionate, and integral member of the Eastville community for 140 years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church on the occasion of its 140th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Reverend Rufus Mosley, Jr., and the congregation of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church as an expression of the General Assembly's best wishes for a long and fruitful ministry serving the citizens of Eastville and the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

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