

2009 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 737

Offered January 14, 2009

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Commending Southside Baptist Church on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Patron—Jones

WHEREAS, Southside Baptist Church of Suffolk and its faithful congregation celebrated its 50th anniversary of serving the Lord and the Suffolk community; and

WHEREAS, in 1958 missionary members of First Baptist Church began to explore the need for a new church in the area; and

WHEREAS, fourteen charter members of what would become Southside Baptist Church sponsored a week of revival services and daily morning meetings of Vacation Bible School, and on June 29, 1958, the first Sunday school and worship services of the "Carolina Road Mission" were held in Shotton Cotton Gin; and

WHEREAS, with the support of the Southern Baptist Extension Board, funding for a new building for the church was found, groundbreaking took place in June 1959, and the doors of the church were opened to the community on November 22, 1959; and

WHEREAS, the congregation of Southside Baptist Church grew and its missions flourished and on February 27, 1977, another groundbreaking was held for a larger sanctuary, which was completed and dedicated on January 8, 1978; and

WHEREAS, following an effective Baptist tradition of "church planting," Southside Baptist Church commissioned Pastor Jon Rissmiller and many Southside families to start a new church in North Carolina in 2005 and commissioned Pastor Jeremy Nairn and more Southside families to start an additional church in Franklin in 2007; and

WHEREAS, throughout its long history, Southside Baptist Church has provided its devoted congregation, its neighbors, and the community with a special place to worship, to help others, and to grow in faith and service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Southside Baptist Church of Suffolk on the occasion of its glorious 50th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Pastor R. Stewart McCarter and the congregation of Southside Baptist Church of Suffolk as an expression of the General Assembly's best wishes for a joyful celebration and future success in the church's ministry.

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