

2013 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 396

Commending Divine Baptist Church.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 7, 2013
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 15, 2013

WHEREAS, in 2013, Divine Baptist Church in the City of Chesapeake celebrates its 150th anniversary of faith and fellowship with the community; and

WHEREAS, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, a group of believers established a church and called it Divine Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Divine Baptist Church is to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ both locally and globally; to minister to the spiritual, emotional, social, and intellectual needs of everyone; and to continuously educate and develop Christian leaders while glorifying God in all things; and

WHEREAS, Divine Baptist Church is one of the oldest established churches in Chesapeake, previously known as Norfolk County; the church has prospered and given spiritual birth to new congregations, including First Baptist Church-Gilmerton, New Light Baptist Church, and New Hope Baptist Church, formerly known as Saint Julien Creek Chapel; and

WHEREAS, Divine Baptist Church experienced a devastating fire in 1945 that destroyed everything except the Holy Bible; through God's divine providence, the church was rebuilt and a mortgage burning ceremony was conducted on August 12, 1951; and

WHEREAS, Divine Baptist Church is a church where the Bible is not just a book, but a holy way of life; it is a praying church with a solid Christian education foundation, an emerging Sunday School, a rapidly growing pastoral Bible study, enthusiastic youth and senior ministries, and foreign missionary groups in Haiti and Kenya; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Divine Baptist Church on the occasion of its 150th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Divine Baptist Church as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the church's long tradition of service to the community.

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