

2016 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 7

Commending Bryant Baptist Church.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 15, 2016

WHEREAS, for 150 years, Bryant Baptist Church has provided spiritual leadership, joyful worship in the Baptist tradition, and generous outreach to the Southampton County community; and

WHEREAS, Bryant Baptist Church traces its deepest roots to brush arbor services in the region, where slaves met in secret to enjoy fellowship and worship by combining African culture and Christian traditions; and

WHEREAS, in 1865, a group of freedmen in the Courtland area of Southampton County purchased two acres of land to build the sanctuary that would become Bryant Baptist Church; the first recorded mention of the church in Southampton County appeared in 1879; and

WHEREAS, in its early years, Bryant Baptist Church conducted one Sunday service each month and held baptisms in the nearby Nottoway River; the congregation expanded in numbers and grew in faith throughout the 18th and 19th centuries; and

WHEREAS, to better serve the growing congregation, Bryant Baptist Church installed a concrete baptismal font in 1960 and began offering additional Sunday services; the current church building, completed in 1977, featured a host of modern amenities and has benefited from numerous renovations and additions; and

WHEREAS, in cooperation with other local churches and charitable organizations, Bryant Baptist Church works to serve and strengthen the community by providing hot meals to less fortunate families during winter months and emergency assistance to local residents in need; and

WHEREAS, Bryant Baptist Church also worked with eight other local churches to raise more than \$10,000, as well as clothing, toiletries, and first aid supplies, for victims of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, Bryant Baptist Church commemorated its 150th anniversary with a special celebration on October 17, 2015; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Bryant Baptist Church hereby be commended on the occasion of its 150th anniversary in 2015; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Reverend Dr. Allen Davis, pastor of Bryant Baptist Church, as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for the church's long history and contributions to the Southampton County community.

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