

16105555D

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 206

Offered March 7, 2016

*Commending Mount Zion Baptist Church.*

Patrons—McDougle, Dance and Stuart; Delegate: Ransone

WHEREAS, for 150 years, Mount Zion Baptist Church in Farnham has served the Richmond County community by providing opportunities for joyful worship in the Baptist tradition as well as providing spiritual leadership and ministry; and

WHEREAS, Mount Zion Baptist Church traces its deepest roots to Farnham Baptist Church, which was founded in 1776; during the Civil War, the African American members of Farnham Baptist Church grew in faith and number, and several black deacons were appointed to better serve the congregation; and

WHEREAS, in 1866, after the African American members of the congregation petitioned to form their own faith community in the area, Mount Zion Baptist Church was formed with assistance from the pastor of Farnham Baptist Church, who prepared a covenant and articles of faith; and

WHEREAS, to accommodate its growing membership, Mount Zion Baptist Church erected a new church building in 1869, while under the able leadership of the Reverend Peter Blackwell; and

WHEREAS, in its early years, Mount Zion Baptist Church was rented out to local residents for use as a public school building; and

WHEREAS, Mount Zion Baptist Church works to strengthen the community through ministry programs and generous outreach and educates local youth with regular Sunday School classes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Mount Zion 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 Mount Zion Baptist Church, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the church's long legacy of service to the Richmond County community.

INTRODUCED

SJ206