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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 921

Offered February 9, 2017

*Commending First Baptist Church East End.*

Patrons—Price, Helsel, Mullin, Ward and Yancey; Senators: Locke, Mason and Norment

WHEREAS, for more than 120 years, First Baptist Church East End in Newport News has worked to provide opportunities for joyful worship in the Baptist tradition and minister to the physical and spiritual needs of the congregation and the community; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church East End was established by a group of faithful Christians under the leadership of the Reverend Anthony Johnson of New Kent County in 1896; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church East End held its first services outdoors, then moved to a house on Oak Avenue and 29th Street until a small wooden sanctuary was completed in 1898; and

WHEREAS, to better serve its growing congregation, First Baptist Church East End erected a brick building in 1921; the church was tragically destroyed by fire in 1961, but relocated to a new edifice at 649 30th Street; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church East End completed its current building on May 6, 2007, and plans to further expand the building to provide more space for ministries and educational programs; and

WHEREAS, over the years, First Baptist Church East End has benefited from the able leadership of the Reverend J. B. Allen, the Reverend W. H. Harris, the Reverend J. H. Smith, the Reverend W. T. Young, the Reverend Y. B. Williams, Sr., the Reverend Dr. I. H. Ruffin, the Reverend Woodrow M. Brown, Sr., the Reverend Woodrow M. Brown, Jr., and the Reverend Dr. William J. Marshall; and

WHEREAS, driven by their faith, members of the First Baptist Church East End congregation have achieved success in a wide variety of career fields and become leaders throughout the community and the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend First Baptist Church East End on the occasion of its 120th 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 Dr. Gregory M. Howard, pastor of First Baptist Church East End, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the church's spiritual leadership and contributions to the Newport News community.

INTRODUCED

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