

## 2006 SESSION

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### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 278

Offered March 3, 2006

*Commending Holmes Presbyterian Church on the occasion of its 160th anniversary.*

Patrons—Rerras; Delegate: Lewis

WHEREAS, Holmes Presbyterian Church, in Bayview near Cheriton, was founded 160 years ago by five local women and one man and was the beginning of organized Presbyterianism in Northampton County; it is now the seventh oldest church building of any denomination on Virginia's Eastern Shore; and

WHEREAS, the first meeting of the church founders was held on January 2, 1846, and on February 10, 1846, John Wilkins, Sr., deeded to the trustees of Holmes Presbyterian Church one half-acre of land for the sum of one dollar, and the land for the church was well situated with "easy access from a major colonial road running from King's Creek to Mockhorn Bay"; and

WHEREAS, the church was dedicated in May 1846 and was named Holmes Presbyterian Church in honor of Thompson Holmes; and

WHEREAS, Thompson Holmes was born circa 1780 in Northampton County, was an educated man, and by 1805 was married to Elizabeth Allen Stokley and was living in Accomack Parish; he was a physician, lawyer, and author, and served Accomack County as sheriff and justice of the peace for many years; and

WHEREAS, when his wife and daughter Sally died, Thompson Holmes moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to be close to his daughter Carolyn and her husband the Reverend Ely, who was the pastor of Fourth Presbyterian Church in the city; and

WHEREAS, Thompson Holmes, who had become a very successful businessman in Philadelphia, sent "substantial aid" to build a church for the fledgling congregation in Northampton County, and the Fourth Presbyterian Church sent the church its first minister, the Reverend Nathaniel Locke; and

WHEREAS, the congregation flourished, and by 1890 Holmes Presbyterian Church had founded four new churches in the area—Cape Charles, Belle Haven, Eastville, and Hopewell in Cedar Grove; and

WHEREAS, its leaders helped to bring about and continue to support the Presbyterian Children's Home in Lynchburg; and

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

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Holmes Presbyterian Church on the occasion of its 160th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Holmes Presbyterian Church as an expression of the General Assembly's best wishes for a joyful celebration and future success in its ministry.

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