

2008 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 411

Offered February 18, 2008

Commending Hill Street Baptist Church on the occasion of its 115th anniversary.

Patrons—Ware, O., Fralin and Griffith; Senator: Edwards

WHEREAS, in 2007 Hill Street Baptist Church in Roanoke celebrated 115 years of serving its members and the greater community; and

WHEREAS, Hill Street Baptist Church, originally called Park Street Baptist Church, was organized in 1892 by Mrs. Bertha Hughes, Mr. Charlie Tyler, Mr. Robert B. Bailey, and two other people whose names are not known; the church's first pastor was the Reverend M. L. Minter; and

WHEREAS, under the guidance of the Reverend R. R. Henry, who led the church from 1896 to 1904, a new building was erected at McDowell and Peach Roads, and it was during this period that the church's name was changed to Hill Street Baptist; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend David R. Powell, Hill Street Baptist Church's longest-serving pastor, came to the church in 1917, and during his 38-year tenure, the church underwent extensive renovations to the exterior and interior including the addition of beautiful stained glass windows and an increase in the seating capacity to 600; and

WHEREAS, in 1967 Hill Street Baptist Church held a Diamond Jubilee Service to celebrate 75 years of successful ministry; the church's membership continued to grow and the church was able to purchase a parsonage for its pastor; and

WHEREAS, Hill Street Baptist Church had to abandon its building in the 1970s when the area was slated for urban renewal and redevelopment; in March 1981 members marched triumphantly to their newly built church for a celebratory service led by the Reverend Wilkinson; and

WHEREAS, since 1995, Hill Street Baptist Church has been under the inspired and capable leadership of the Reverend Dr. Johnny R. Stone and the church continues to grow and expand its ministry and programs; church members joyfully devote their time and resources to support the church's missions and look forward to a bright and productive future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend and congratulate Hill Street Baptist Church on the occasion of its 115th 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. Johnny R. Stone on behalf of Hill Street Baptist Church as an expression of the General Assembly's best wishes for continued success in the church's many missions and programs.

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