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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 392

Offered March 4, 2010

Commending Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

Patrons—Torian, Anderson, Lingamfelter, Marshall, R.G. and Miller, J.H.; Senators: Barker, Colgan and Puller

WHEREAS, Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Triangle proudly celebrated the dedication of its new 54,000-square-foot building on March 6, 2010; and

WHEREAS, organized in 1876 in Stafford, Virginia, under the pastorate of the Reverend Charles Gibson, Mt. Zion Baptist Church began with a small membership that was dedicated to the Lord, one another, and the community; and

WHEREAS, over the years as the Mt. Zion Baptist Church congregation grew in faith and numbers, the decision was made under the leadership of the Reverend George Carter to move the church to Prince William County, and a location on Joplin Road in Triangle was chosen; and

WHEREAS, on July 9, 1953, the members marched to the new church building, which has served the congregation for the past 57 years; and

WHEREAS, in 1974 Mt. Zion Baptist Church installed a new pastor, Dr. Alfred Jones, Jr., who has been an energetic and progressive leader of the congregation and has overseen the spiritual and financial growth of the church; and

WHEREAS, in 1979 Mt. Zion Baptist Church added an addition to the church to provide more space for worship, and the parking lot was extended and paved; and

WHEREAS, since the expansion in 1979, Mt. Zion Baptist Church has grown and now has over 2,000 members; two services are now conducted each Sunday to accommodate members and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the new building provides an expanded sanctuary for worship and various other rooms and facilities for education and numerous ministries; and

WHEREAS, Mt. Zion Baptist Church celebrates and rejoices in the blessing of having a new church that will serve its congregation as it continues to move forward in spreading the gospel; and

WHEREAS, Mt. Zion Baptist Church has been served throughout its history by immensely dedicated and able pastors and lay staff, who have provided visionary leadership, devout worship, meaningful Christian education, and enthusiastic ministry and community missions; and

WHEREAS, throughout its long history, Mt. Zion Baptist Church has provided its devoted congregation, its neighbors, and the community with a special place to worship, to help others, and to grow in faith and service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend Mt. Zion Baptist Church on the occasion of the dedication of its new building; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Dr. Alfred Jones, Jr., pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and admiration for the church's commitment to the spiritual needs of its members and the community.