

2016 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 88

Commending High Street Baptist Church.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 29, 2016

WHEREAS, High Street Baptist Church celebrated 150 years of spiritual leadership and joyful worship in the Baptist tradition with the Danville community in 2015; and

WHEREAS, established in 1865, High Street Baptist Church was founded by emancipated African American members of First Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, High Street Baptist Church's current building was completed in 1901, and the church was added to the Virginia historic highway marker system by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in 2015; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960s, High Street Baptist Church played an integral role in the civil rights movement; marchers were trained and housed in the church, which hosted the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1963, and Pastor Lendall W. Chase also served as president of the Danville Progressive Christian Association, which coordinated nonviolent protests; and

WHEREAS, the first African American man and the first African American woman to be elected to the Danville City Council and the first African American Mayor of Danville were all congregants of High Street Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, members of High Street Baptist Church have become respected leaders in many fields and made valuable contributions to their communities as living examples of the church's motto, "Enter to Worship . . . Depart to Serve"; and

WHEREAS, High Street Baptist Church commemorated its 150th anniversary with a special celebration, coinciding with the opening of a museum to preserve the church's unique history, in October 2015; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That High Street Baptist Church hereby be commended on the occasion of its 150th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to High Street Baptist Church as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for its service to the Danville community.

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