

2018 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 585

Commending St. John Baptist Church.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, May 30, 2018

WHEREAS, St. John Baptist Church, which has provided spiritual leadership, generous outreach, and opportunities for uplifting worship to generations of Richmond residents for more than a century, celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2018; and

WHEREAS, St. John Baptist Church was founded in 1868 by seven former members of Ebenezer Baptist Church, with the Reverend Joseph Claiborne as moderator; that same year, the Reverend Gabriel Minor became the first pastor; and

WHEREAS, after St. John Baptist Church was organized, Lewis Ginter presented the congregation with its first church building, which still stands across the street from the church's current location on North Avenue; and

WHEREAS, in 1870, Reverend Claiborne became the second pastor of St. John Baptist Church and served for 10 years; he was the first pastor who was a product of the church community; and

WHEREAS, from 1880 to 1959, St. John Baptist Church was led by the Reverend L. R. Frazier, the Reverend B. H. Johnson, the Reverend Archer Mitchell Dent, Sr., the Reverend R. H. Johnson, the Reverend John W. Kemp, the Reverend M. T. Fleming, and the Reverend E. T. Burton; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend L. B. Kizzie became pastor in 1959 and served the congregation for more than 33 years, becoming pastor emeritus after his retirement in 1992; during his tenure, he united St. John Baptist Church with three other local churches to create a Cooperative Outreach Ministry and helped the church community grow in both faith and membership; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Kizzie was succeeded in 1993 by the Reverend Robert King, who served St. John Baptist Church until 2001, when the Reverend Dr. Michael L. Felton became pastor; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That St. John Baptist Church hereby be commended on the occasion of its 150th anniversary in 2018; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to St. John Baptist Church as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for the church's long legacy of contributions to the Richmond community.

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