

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 94

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the First Baptist Church of Belton on the splendid occasion of its 150th anniversary, which is being celebrated in August, 2003; and

WHEREAS, In 1853, three years after the City of Belton was founded, eight people organized the First Baptist Church of Belton to serve the spiritual needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, The Civil War and the period of violence and lawlessness of Reconstruction devastated Belton and the First Baptist Church, and there were no regular services; the church survived, however, and it later endured the Depression and a major fire, which destroyed the building in 1947; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Martin Van Buren Smith began the statewide publication *Texas Baptist Standard* in 1892, and it was followed by the *Junior Quarterly*, the first statewide publication for Baptist young people; and

WHEREAS, During World War II, the church began to grow again and became the religious focal point for Camp Hood, now Fort Hood, and during the time of civil unrest, the church voted in 1963 for integration of its congregation; and

WHEREAS, In its 150-year history, the church has grown from the original eight members to a membership of over 2,800; for over 30 years, the church has performed its God and Country Concert to honor America, an event attended by thousands every 4th of July; and

WHEREAS, With its strong commitment to missionary work, locally as well as internationally, from its prison ministry to building churches in other countries, the church continues to be a source of strength for its members during times of hardship and bereavement; and

WHEREAS, Under the guidance and wise stewardship of its pastors and the outstanding leadership of its current pastor, Andy Davis, the church has ministered faithfully to the spiritual needs of countless Christians; and

WHEREAS, The celebration of its 150th anniversary is an expression of the church's enduring commitment to its holy mission and its dedication to tradition and unity among Christians; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby extend congratulations to the First Baptist Church of Belton on the joyous occasion of its 150th anniversary celebration; and, be it further

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RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the church as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Fraser

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on July 22, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate