

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 174

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Reverend Ben Clinton Smith of Quinlan is marking
2 his 50th year in the ministry and is retiring from a notable career
3 of dedicated service to congregations in a number of Texas and
4 Louisiana towns; and

5 WHEREAS, Born on August 30, 1926, near Hemphill, in the Big
6 Thicket of East Texas, "Brother Ben" grew up in a farm family; he
7 joined the United States Army in 1945, serving his country at the
8 end of World War II, and then again when he was called to duty in the
9 Korean War; and

10 WHEREAS, After attending the University of Corpus Christi for
11 a year, he transferred to East Texas Baptist College in Marshall for
12 three years, and then completed his seminary requirements through
13 extension courses after starting his ministry; and

14 WHEREAS, Reverend Smith's initial pastorate was on a
15 part-time basis at a Monkstown church in Fannin County, and the
16 dedicated preacher drove 150 miles from Marshall to fulfill his
17 responsibilities; he headed several congregations in Louisiana
18 before returning to Texas in 1956 to serve as the spiritual leader
19 of Geneva Baptist, First Baptist in Roxton, and North Baptist in
20 Greenville, where he remained until 1975; he then ministered to the
21 members of Oak Crest Baptist, First Baptist in Campbell, and
22 Quinlan Faith Baptist Church, from which he retired for the first
23 time in 1988; over the course of the next 15 years, while serving
24 interim pastorates, Reverend Smith retired for a second time, but

1 in January 2003 he accepted the interim pastorate of the First
2 Baptist Church of Quinlan, from which he is now retiring; and

3 WHEREAS, A devoted family man, Reverend Smith enjoys a warm
4 and rewarding home life with his wife, Laura, his 4 children, and
5 his 10 grandchildren; among his interests are archaeology, relic
6 hunting, and fishing, and this humble gentleman enthusiastically
7 describes his wealth in family and friendships; and

8 WHEREAS, Throughout a career devoted to his fellowman,
9 Reverend Smith has touched the lives of many people, and he has
10 earned the admiration of all who know him; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
12 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby recognize the Reverend Ben
13 Clinton Smith on his retirement from an impressive 50-year career
14 in the ministry and extend to him best wishes for the future; and,
15 be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for Reverend Smith as an expression of high regard by the
18 Texas House of Representatives.