

By: Jones of Dallas

H.R. No. 262

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Reverend Dr. William J. Shaw, a Marshall, Texas,  
2 native, provides exceptional leadership to the National Baptist  
3 Convention U.S.A., Inc., and spiritual guidance to the congregation  
4 of White Rock Baptist Church; and

5           WHEREAS, In 1999, Dr. Shaw was elected president of the  
6 National Baptist Convention, the largest group of predominantly  
7 African American churches in the world, and his exemplary tenure  
8 has reflected unity and progress; under his guidance, the  
9 convention eliminated the 14-year debt on the Baptist World Center  
10 in three years, implemented new accounting procedures, established  
11 a retirement plan for pastors, ministers, and church staff, and  
12 identified a number of outreach challenges to be met by the  
13 organization; and

14           WHEREAS, Pastor of the historic White Rock Baptist Church in  
15 West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, since 1956, Dr. Shaw has  
16 shepherded the church through a period of growth and prosperity and  
17 established outreach ministries to meet the needs of a diverse  
18 metropolitan congregation; called to the ministry early in life, he  
19 preached a trial sermon at age 11 and was ordained at age 17, when he  
20 became pastor of Oak Hill Baptist Church in Harrison County, Texas;  
21 and

22           WHEREAS, This highly regarded gentleman, who was  
23 valedictorian of his high school senior class at age 16, graduated  
24 summa cum laude from Bishop College and went on to receive a master

1 of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary and a doctorate  
2 in ministry from the Colgate Rochester School at Crozer Theological  
3 Seminary in Rochester, New York; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Shaw is involved in numerous civic endeavors and  
5 serves as a board member of Junior Achievement of Delaware Valley,  
6 Inc., Community Legal Services of Philadelphia, the Greater  
7 Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition, and the Martin Luther King,  
8 Jr., Fellows in Black Church Studies; and

9 WHEREAS, A devoted husband and father as well, he enjoys a  
10 warm family life with his wife of 42 years, Camellia, their son and  
11 daughter-in-law, Timothy and Simone, and two granddaughters,  
12 Lillian and Brittany; and

13 WHEREAS, Throughout his lifetime, Dr. Shaw has demonstrated a  
14 deep commitment to his family, his faith, and his community, and it  
15 is truly a pleasure to join in honoring him at this time; now,  
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
18 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby commend the Reverend  
19 Dr. William J. Shaw for his outstanding leadership of the National  
20 Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc., and White Rock Baptist Church and  
21 extend to him heartfelt best wishes for continued success and  
22 happiness; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
24 prepared for Dr. Shaw as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
25 House of Representatives.