

By: Dukes

H.R. No. 891

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The First Baptist Church of Austin is marking a
2 significant milestone on April 27, 2003, when congregants celebrate
3 the church's 136th anniversary; and

4 WHEREAS, The First Baptist Church has a rich history that
5 began in the 1800s, when area slaves would gather in the rear
6 seating section of the white church; in 1864, church leaders
7 decided to institute separate worship services for the slaves, and
8 a short time later the Reverend Jacob Fontaine and 13 charter
9 members organized this revered house of prayer, the first
10 African-American Baptist church in Austin; and

11 WHEREAS, Acquiring its first building in 1873, the church
12 erected a second structure between 1895 and 1900 at the corner of
13 14th Street and Red River, where the congregation worshiped for
14 more than 50 years; after moving to its third location in November
15 of 1952, the First Baptist Church relocated to the present location
16 on Heflin Lane in December 1966; and

17 WHEREAS, Continuing its proud legacy of faith and good works,
18 the First Baptist Church has provided for the spiritual needs of its
19 congregation by promoting schools, youth organizations, missions,
20 leadership, stewardship, and family education; and

21 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of the Reverend H. L. McGee,
22 the First Baptist Church continues to serve the citizens of Austin,
23 and this distinguished institution truly deserves special
24 legislative recognition; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
2 Legislature hereby honor the First Baptist Church on its 136th
3 anniversary and extend warmest best wishes to the spiritual leaders
4 and worshipers for a joyous and memorable celebration; and, be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
7 prepared for the congregants of the First Baptist Church of Austin
8 as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of
9 Representatives.