

By: Hughes

H.R. No. 155

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Members and friends of Smith Chapel United Methodist
2 Church in Mineola celebrated a significant milestone on June 26,
3 2005, when they commemorated the 120th anniversary of their
4 church's founding; and

5 WHEREAS, Although a 1915 fire destroyed the church's earliest
6 records, the origins of Smith Chapel are believed to date back to
7 1885, when a group of area residents joined together to form what
8 was then known as Davis Chapel; they initially met in an old school
9 building and, in summer months, outdoors under a brush arbor, but
10 contributions made by W. H. Smith and other generous supporters
11 enabled the purchase of land in 1915 and the construction of a
12 one-room frame building soon thereafter; the name of the church was
13 changed in 1916 to honor Mr. Smith; since then, renovations,
14 additions, and new structures have addressed membership growth, and
15 today the small building that earlier served the congregation now
16 stands adjacent to the current sanctuary and its Fellowship Hall,
17 Education Hall, and parsonage, and a church bell inherited from the
18 1957 merging with Crow Methodist Church continues to call
19 worshippers to Sunday morning service; and

20 WHEREAS, Until 1950, Smith Chapel was served by traveling
21 preachers, or circuit riders, whose five-church schedule allowed
22 monthly sermons for the Mineola congregation; throughout the
23 ensuing years, the church has benefited from the strong faith and
24 leadership of a number of esteemed members of the clergy; and

1 WHEREAS, Since its inception more than a century ago, Smith
2 Chapel United Methodist Church has served many residents of the
3 Mineola community as a source of inspiration, guidance, and
4 fellowship, and it is a pleasure to join in honoring the church at
5 this special time in its rich history; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
7 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby congratulate all those
8 affiliated with Smith Chapel United Methodist Church in Mineola on
9 the 120th anniversary of the church's founding and extend to its
10 congregation sincere best wishes for continued success with all
11 their worthy endeavors; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for the church as an expression of high regard by the Texas
14 House of Representatives.