

By: West

H.R. No. 164

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The year 2006 marks the 100th anniversary of the
2 founding of First Christian Church of Odessa, providing an ideal
3 time to recognize the rich history of this venerable house of
4 worship; and

5 WHEREAS, The church was organized on June 6, 1906, by 13
6 ranchers, who convened on the lawn of the Ector County Courthouse;
7 the first service was held in a tent, and the courthouse horse
8 trough served as the baptistry; and

9 WHEREAS, By 1911, a tabernacle had been built, and in 1939 an
10 education building and a beautiful sanctuary with striking stained
11 glass windows were erected on the corner of Sixth and Lee Streets;
12 today, the sanctuary serves as a fellowship hall, and congregants
13 meet for services in a facility built in 1965; and

14 WHEREAS, Recognized with markers by the Heritage Foundation
15 of Odessa, First Christian Church has long played an important role
16 in the vitality of the community through its religious, civic,
17 social, educational, and volunteer programs; moreover, the church
18 continues to enjoy a close relationship with Texas Christian
19 University and Brite Divinity School, where many of its ministers
20 have studied; and

21 WHEREAS, Since its founding a century ago, First Christian
22 Church has provided spiritual leadership and unwavering support to
23 area residents, and the church stands as a tribute to the dedication
24 of its members, both past and present, who have devoted their time,

1 prayers, and financial resources to ensure its continued existence
2 as a house of worship; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
4 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby congratulate the clergy and
5 members of First Christian Church on the joyous occasion of the
6 100th anniversary of the church's founding and extend to them
7 heartfelt best wishes for the future; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
9 prepared for the church as an expression of high regard by the Texas
10 House of Representatives.