

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 298

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Reverend Stephen John Thurston has made an
2 indelible impact as president of the National Baptist Convention of
3 America, Inc., and it is a pleasure to recognize this esteemed
4 clergyman; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Chicago in 1952, Reverend Thurston earned
6 his bachelor's degree in religion from Bishop College in Dallas and
7 pursued postgraduate studies at Wheaton College in Illinois; he
8 preached his first sermon on Easter Sunday in 1971, and he was
9 subsequently ordained and appointed as assistant pastor of New
10 Covenant Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago; he eventually
11 followed in his father's and grandfather's footsteps and became the
12 third generation of Thurstons to be appointed pastor of this
13 venerable house of worship; a well-known and respected revivalist,
14 Reverend Thurston has ably led his own congregation for more than 25
15 years, and his ministry has reached communities in Africa, the
16 Caribbean, and the Middle East; and

17 WHEREAS, In September 2003, he was elected as 14th president
18 of the NBCA, a fellowship of churches with a membership of
19 approximately five million African American Baptists; an
20 accomplished author and community leader, he previously served as
21 third vice president of the organization for 15 years, and he holds
22 the distinction of being the youngest president in its history; and

23 WHEREAS, Reverend Thurston has been named one of America's
24 Best and Brightest Young Business and Professional Men by *Dollars*

1 *and Sense* magazine, and he has further distinguished himself as
2 host of the 107th annual session of the NBCA, as coordinator for the
3 1990 Baptist World Alliance in Seoul, South Korea, and as president
4 of the Illinois National Baptist State Convention; and

5 WHEREAS, Reverend Stephen Thurston exemplifies the very
6 highest standards of his vocation, and it is most fitting that he be
7 recognized for his contributions to his church community and to the
8 members of the NBCA, who look forward with anticipation to his
9 continued leadership; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
11 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby honor the Reverend Stephen
12 John Thurston for his dedicated service as president of the
13 National Baptist Convention of America, Inc., and extend to him
14 sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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