

By: Jones of Dallas

H.R. No. 136

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The congregation and friends of Sweet Union Baptist
2 Church of Jacksonville celebrated the 117th anniversary of the
3 church's founding on November 28, 2004; and

4 WHEREAS, In the late 1880s, area settlers Lum Coleman, John
5 Williams, Andy Steward, Henry Sanders, and Billy Smith took a
6 leadership role in establishing a worship center for African
7 Americans in the Jacksonville community; and

8 WHEREAS, Attending prayer meetings in the schoolhouse
9 located on Baptist College Hill, the present site of Jacksonville
10 College, the men invited the Reverend T. B. Johnson to preach at the
11 suggestion of Henry Sanders, and Reverend Johnson soon answered the
12 call to pastor the budding congregation; he organized the church on
13 March 10, 1887, and dedicated the next 50 years to its growth and
14 well-being; and

15 WHEREAS, Sweet Union has been blessed with dynamic pastoral
16 leadership from the beginning, including from pastors J. W.
17 Presley, J. J. Finley, W. A. I. McDonald, J. B. Mitchell, C. D.
18 Daniels, G. C. Melton, U. L. Sanders, J. W. Simpson, Karl
19 Hockernhull, S. A. Miles, W. Germon, and the Reverend Horace
20 Williams, who leads the congregation today ably assisted by the
21 church's associate minister, the Reverend John Davis; and

22 WHEREAS, Since its establishment, Sweet Union Baptist Church
23 has served as a spiritual home for generations of Texans, and it is
24 a privilege to join in honoring the church at this time; now,

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
3 Legislature hereby congratulate all those affiliated with Sweet
4 Union Baptist Church on the joyous occasion of the church's 117th
5 anniversary and extend to them sincere best wishes for a meaningful
6 and memorable event; and, be it further

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