

By: Martinez Fischer

H.R. No. 211

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The congregation of West End Baptist Church of San  
2 Antonio is celebrating the 100th anniversary of their church on  
3 March 20, 2005, and this momentous occasion provides a fitting  
4 opportunity to reflect on the rich history of this venerable house  
5 of worship; and

6           WHEREAS, In March 1905, with seven members and two ministers,  
7 West End Baptist Church opened in a one-room, rented building in a  
8 densely wooded area on Culebra Road; the Reverend P. H. Haywood was  
9 the group's first pastor and under his leadership the congregation  
10 grew steadily; he also helped organize the purchase of the present  
11 sanctuary's lot and the construction of a small frame house on the  
12 property; and

13           WHEREAS, In the 1930s the church expanded rapidly to include  
14 more than 3,000 members and a number of organizations, including  
15 the first layman's league in the district, the mission circles, the  
16 girls' auxiliary, the shepherd boys, and the starlight band; by  
17 1946, the church was debt-free and boasted a nursery school, a board  
18 of directors, and plans for a new building, which opened its doors  
19 four years later; and

20           WHEREAS, West End Baptist Church was completely modernized in  
21 the 1990s under the wise stewardship of Dr. A. Bernard Devers, the  
22 congregation's current pastor; he initiated many new programs and a  
23 complete upgrade of the church's facilities, including new computer  
24 equipment and an expanded office staff; one of the most

1 sought-after preachers and Bible teachers in San Antonio, Dr.  
2 Devers, like his predecessors, has served his congregation with  
3 selfless devotion, and the church has greatly benefited from his  
4 prayers and direction; and

5 WHEREAS, Since its founding a century ago, West End Baptist  
6 Church has provided spiritual leadership and unwavering support to  
7 those who have worshiped there, and the church stands as a tribute  
8 to the dedication and deep commitment of its members, past and  
9 present, who have devoted their time, prayers, and financial  
10 resources to ensure its continued existence as a house of worship;  
11 now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
13 Legislature hereby congratulate the members of West End Baptist  
14 Church on the joyous occasion of the church's centennial and extend  
15 to them sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable  
16 observance; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
18 prepared for the church as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
19 House of Representatives.