

By: Jones of Dallas

H.R. No. 1633

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Reverend Jesse Brown and the faithful  
2 congregants and friends of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church are  
3 giving thanks for the church's two centuries of service to the  
4 Wheelock community; and

5           WHEREAS, Founded about 1800, New Hope is the only African  
6 American house of worship in the area today; initially, members met  
7 in a log structure they had built deep in the woods of Robertson  
8 County, but poor roads and difficult travel hindered the church's  
9 growth; Sam and Lucy Bell Stubbs Mitchell generously offered land  
10 on Hearne Road for a new church building, and the New Hope church  
11 home has remained at that site since its relocation in the early  
12 20th century; and

13           WHEREAS, The church has met various needs in the lives of  
14 nearby residents throughout its rich history, for it served the  
15 surrounding community as a one-teacher school, with Mr. Rocha  
16 Middleton as an early instructor; in addition to services on the  
17 first Sunday of the month, activities offered included deacon's  
18 meetings, a mission society, Sunday school, and various programs  
19 for young people, including Baptist Training Union and the Young  
20 People's Star Light Band; and

21           WHEREAS, Regularly scheduled events hosted by the  
22 congregation have ranged from summertime baptisms conducted in a  
23 pond, to weeklong revivals, to Juneteenth celebrations; the center  
24 of community life, New Hope has been the scene of meetings,

1 area-wide homecoming festivities in June, fish fries, potluck  
2 suppers, and other fund-raising endeavors to help defray church  
3 expenses; and

4 WHEREAS, For two centuries, New Hope Missionary Baptist  
5 Church has been a source of spiritual guidance and practical  
6 assistance for generations of Texans, and it is most deserving of  
7 special recognition; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
9 Legislature hereby honor New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in  
10 Wheelock on its notable anniversary celebration and extend sincere  
11 best wishes to Reverend Jesse Brown and members of the  
12 congregation; and, be it further

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