

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 1805

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The year 2005 marks the 126th anniversary of the  
2 founding of Prairie Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Rains  
3 County; and

4           WHEREAS, This historic house of worship holds the distinction  
5 of being the first African American church in the county; among its  
6 22 dedicated pastors since the church's inception have been a  
7 former slave, the Reverend Cicero Commodore Chambers, who served as  
8 Prairie Grove's third pastor and the first moderator of the Cypress  
9 Baptist Association, and the Reverend Cleveland Alexander, who led  
10 the church for 28 years; and

11           WHEREAS, Initially, services were held in a log structure,  
12 and through several moves and numerous rebuilding, renovation, and  
13 expansion projects, the physical plant has been enlarged and  
14 modernized to keep pace with its growing membership; and

15           WHEREAS, Since Reverend Willie Ray Byrd answered the call to  
16 pastor Prairie Grove in 1997, his dedication and leadership have  
17 kept the church moving forward; among its array of programs are a  
18 young adult Sunday school class and an ecumenical sunrise service  
19 held in conjunction with Emory Baptist Church and Emory United  
20 Methodist Church, as well as Men on the Move Brotherhood, young  
21 women's, prayer warriors, and crisis ministries; and

22           WHEREAS, For 126 years, Prairie Grove Missionary Baptist  
23 Church has served Rains County residents as a source of spiritual  
24 guidance and support for generations of Texans, and its notable

1 history and important contributions to the community merit special  
2 recognition; now, therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
4 Legislature hereby congratulate all those affiliated with Prairie  
5 Grove Missionary Baptist Church on its 126th anniversary and extend  
6 to them sincere best wishes for the future; 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.