

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 327

**WHEREAS**, For 140 years, many families have come together to celebrate their faith at Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church in Houston; and

**WHEREAS**, This enduring institution has distinguished itself as a respected house of worship over the course of its history, and as a vital and valued asset to the Houston area, serving the community with commitment and compassion; and

**WHEREAS**, Founded in 1865 by citizens of the Piney Point community, the church was originally led by the Reverend Max Austin, Sr.; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1955, Pilgrim Rest was blessed to find the Reverend Clarence George Wilkins, who pastored the congregation for nearly half a century; under his able leadership, the church grew from 200 to 1,500 members, constructed a new sanctuary, added an activity center, and raised the J. B. Alford Memorial Educational Building, which features a nursery, library, multipurpose room, and finance room; and

**WHEREAS**, Currently under the direction of the Reverend James Ellis Blake, Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church is celebrating its anniversary with a special service on March 20, 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, In marking this auspicious occasion, friends and supporters of the church honor its rich heritage even as they reaffirm the values on which it was built, and it is indeed fitting at this time to pay tribute to this venerable institution; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby honor Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church in Houston on its 140th anniversary and extend to its members sincere best wishes for a memorable celebration; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for the church as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 7, 2005.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate