

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 680

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Dr. Joe Samuel Ratliff on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of his ordination; and

WHEREAS, Pastor of the Brentwood Baptist Church in Houston since 1980, Dr. Ratliff has long stood out as a scholar and as a pastor; and

WHEREAS, Under his guidance, Brentwood Baptist Church has grown from a flock of 500 to a congregation of more than 12,000 members, with over 7,000 worshipers attending services every Sunday; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ratliff holds a bachelor's degree in history from Morehouse College, and he earned a master's and a doctor of ministry degree from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, Founding president of the National African-American Fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention, Dr. Ratliff is highly esteemed among his peers in the clergy; he is the first African American pastor to lead the Union Baptist Association, the largest urban Southern Baptist organization in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Among many other honors, he has received the Spiritual Enlightenment Award at Turner Broadcasting System's 11th annual Trumpet Award ceremonies, and he was named Minister of the Year by the National Conference of Christians and Jews; he has been inducted into the Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College, where his portrait hangs in the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, A man of towering faith and courage, Dr. Ratliff has left an indelible mark upon thousands of people in his beloved community; in appreciation of his tireless efforts, the members of Brentwood Baptist Church are hosting a 35th Ordination Anniversary celebration in his honor on May 11, 2005; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby commend Dr. Joe Samuel Ratliff for his dedication and his many years of service to his community; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for him as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Ellis

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 25, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate