

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 1532

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Greater Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in  
2 Houston is celebrating its 112th anniversary on April 22, 2007; and

3           WHEREAS, Based in the Houston Heights neighborhood since its  
4 inception, the church was organized in 1895 by the Reverend L. W.  
5 Williams in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Grant; within three  
6 years of its founding, the congregation held its first revival,  
7 which was conducted by the prominent Houston minister and civic  
8 leader Jack Yates; and

9           WHEREAS, The first structure erected by members of the church  
10 was a brush arbor; with the passage of time, the congregation bought  
11 two lots and constructed a simple building; seven more lots were  
12 subsequently purchased, and in 1961 the present sanctuary was  
13 erected; since that time, more property has been acquired and many  
14 improvements to the physical fabric of the church have continued to  
15 be made; and

16           WHEREAS, Throughout its history, Greater Mt. Zion has been  
17 blessed with dynamic spiritual leadership; those who have guided  
18 the congregation include Reverend Reed, Reverend Ramsey, and the  
19 Reverends G. R. Alford, E. D. Carrington, C. J. Rigmaiden, A. L.  
20 Cain, Ralph D. West, Lugene Spurlock, Jr., Julius Glass, and  
21 Derrick L. Joseph; it was during the pastorate of Reverend  
22 Carrington that the name of the congregation was changed from Mt.  
23 Zion Baptist to Greater Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist; and

24           WHEREAS, Today, Greater Mt. Zion is ably led by the Reverend

1 Gaidi Burgess, who was installed as pastor on December 18, 2005;  
2 since Reverend Burgess assumed the pulpit of this historic church,  
3 its membership has continued to grow and new ministries have been  
4 added; the slogan "The Church Where We Love God and Each Other" has  
5 been selected by Reverend Burgess as the congregation's present  
6 theme; and

7 WHEREAS, Sustained by a common purpose, warm fellowship, and  
8 inspired teaching, the members of Greater Mt. Zion Missionary  
9 Baptist Church have remained constant in their devotion and witness  
10 to their faith, and it is a pleasure to join in recognizing this  
11 joyous occasion in the life of their church; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
13 Legislature hereby congratulate the Reverend Gaidi Burgess and his  
14 congregants on the 112th anniversary of Greater Mt. Zion Missionary  
15 Baptist Church and extend to them sincere best wishes as they embark  
16 on a new year of worship and service; and, be it further

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