

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1021

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the First Baptist Church in Austin on the occasion of its 140th anniversary, which was celebrated April 22, 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, The church was established as an independent congregation in 1867 under the leadership of the Reverend Jacob Fontaine; it is the second oldest Baptist church and the first African American Baptist church in Austin and Travis County; and

**WHEREAS**, The original place the church met was in the rear of a blacksmith shop; the congregation later moved to the basement of the racially segregated First Baptist Church, where the members of the congregation continued to worship until they moved into their own building in 1873; and

**WHEREAS**, A second structure was built between 1895 and 1900, and this facility was used for 50 years; the church moved to a third location in 1952 and finally moved to its present site in 1966; and

**WHEREAS**, Throughout its venerable history, the First Baptist Church has undertaken many worthy projects and missions and has ministered faithfully to the spiritual needs of the members of the church and the community; it has been a source of strength for its members during times of hardship and times of bereavement; and

**WHEREAS**, Because of the wise stewardship of its previous ministry and with the outstanding guidance of its current pastor, the Reverend Dr. Henry L. McGee, the church has continued to grow and to undertake many worthy projects; and

**WHEREAS**, Members of the First Baptist Church can take great pride in the church's rich history, and the celebration of its 140th anniversary is an expression of the church's enduring commitment to ministering to the spiritual needs of members of the church and the community; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby congratulate the members and clergy of First Baptist Church on its 140th anniversary and extend to them best wishes for the future; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the church as a memento of this special day.

Watson

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 14, 2007.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate