

By: Craddick

H.R. No. 1480

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Fifth Street Baptist Church received a historical
2 marker in March 2009 in recognition of its long and notable history
3 of service to the Levelland community; and

4 WHEREAS, In November 1921, settlers of Hockley City, which
5 would later be renamed Levelland, met in a one-room schoolhouse to
6 organize the community's first church, and First Missionary Baptist
7 Church provided both early pioneers and later generations with a
8 place for worship and fellowship; and

9 WHEREAS, Meeting the first and third Sundays of each month,
10 the congregation was led by B. E. Gunn, the church's first minister
11 as well as Levelland's first postmaster; in 1923, the institution
12 affiliated with the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas, and
13 two years later a church was constructed on land it continues to
14 occupy to this day; and

15 WHEREAS, Through the years, the structure was updated from
16 wood to brick, and the name of the institution was changed to Fifth
17 Street Missionary Baptist Church; remaining constant was the
18 congregation's commitment to the support of state, national, and
19 foreign missionaries, and today the church also helps support the
20 work of the Associational Orphanage, the Associational College at
21 Jacksonville, and the Associational Seminary at Jacksonville; and

22 WHEREAS, From its early origins, Fifth Street Baptist has
23 welcomed and encouraged community programs and activities,
24 including sewing classes, meals, quilting, bake sales, and meetings

1 of Boy Scouts, youth groups, girls' and women's missionary
2 auxiliaries, and men's Bible studies; and

3 WHEREAS, The installation of a historical marker
4 acknowledges the longstanding role that the church has played in
5 the Levelland community and provides an assurance that the story of
6 this venerable house of worship will be preserved for generations
7 to come; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
9 Legislature hereby recognize the placement of a historical marker
10 honoring Fifth Street Baptist Church of Levelland and extend to its
11 members sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for the church as an expression of high regard by the Texas
14 House of Representatives.