

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The members of the Cleburne Seventh-day Adventist
2 Church marked a milestone in the history of their church with the
3 celebration of its 135th anniversary on February 2, 2013; and

4 WHEREAS, Thought to be the second-oldest Seventh-day
5 Adventist church in Texas, the church traces its origins back to
6 1875, when three brothers from Michigan arrived in Cleburne to
7 preach at an open-air assembly; they sent for an evangelist whose
8 popular tent revivals attracted some 300 people; a new church was
9 thus formed and adopted the name of Cleburne Seventh-day Adventist
10 on February 2, 1878; and

11 WHEREAS, The leaders of the fledgling church built their own
12 sanctuary soon thereafter, but when it was destroyed by a tornado,
13 they moved to nearby Keene and established a church there; worship
14 services resumed in Cleburne in 1907, held at the local Knights of
15 Pythias Hall, and a new church was built in 1911; in the 1920s, the
16 church struggled financially and membership declined, but the
17 creation of a community outreach program and a fund for religious
18 education helped the church to resume its progress; and

19 WHEREAS, The mayor of Cleburne participated in a dedication
20 ceremony for a new church building in 1950, and the congregation
21 continued to grow; relocating to its current home in 1969, the
22 church added a family life center and a school for students in
23 kindergarten through eighth grade in the 1990s; and

24 WHEREAS, The church was led for a decade by Dr. Tony Torres,

1 who instituted a medical and dental clinic to serve the uninsured;
2 after he stepped down in 2012, Harly Charles assumed the pulpit, and
3 today, he leads a congregation of more than 500 members; and

4 WHEREAS, Over the years, many area residents have looked to
5 the Cleburne Seventh-day Adventist Church for strength and
6 inspiration, and it is a pleasure to join in honoring the church at
7 this special time in its rich history; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
9 Legislature hereby commemorate the 135th anniversary of the
10 Cleburne Seventh-day Adventist Church and extend to the
11 congregation 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.

Orr

H.R. No. 888

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 888 was adopted by the House on March 27, 2013, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House