

By: Orr

H.R. No. 888

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.