

By: Branch

H.R. No. 2247

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Reverend Mark Craig, senior minister of Highland
2 Park United Methodist Church, is retiring from the ministry in May
3 2013, concluding an exceptional career that has spanned more than
4 four decades; and

5 WHEREAS, A graduate of Duke University Divinity School, where
6 he earned a master of divinity degree, Reverend Craig established
7 Custer Road United Methodist Church in Plano in 1980 and served as
8 its pastor for 15 years; he joined HPUMC in 1995, becoming the 10th
9 senior pastor in the church's history, and under his guidance, the
10 congregation has grown to include more than 15,000 worshipers; and

11 WHEREAS, Passionate about community outreach, Reverend Craig
12 has helped form a number of worthy ministries during his tenure;
13 among them are the HPUMC Carpenters for Christ group, which has
14 pledged to build 100 homes for Habitat for Humanity by 2016, and the
15 Night Owls program, which provides respite for families with
16 special needs children; moreover, HPUMC offers an extensive network
17 of support groups for those with physical, emotional, or other
18 challenges; Reverend Craig has advanced mission work as well, and
19 today the church is engaged in humanitarian efforts in more than 16
20 countries around the world; and

21 WHEREAS, This esteemed clergyman has appeared on the public
22 stage several times at the invitation of HPUMC member George
23 W. Bush; he preached at the 1999 Texas gubernatorial inauguration
24 and delivered the sermon at the National Cathedral before the

1 president's second oath-taking in 2005; in addition, Reverend Craig
2 recently gave the prayer at the opening of the George W. Bush
3 Presidential Center; and

4 WHEREAS, Respected and admired by all who know him, Mark
5 Craig has wholeheartedly committed his talents and energies to
6 serving the congregation of Highland Park United Methodist Church,
7 and his leadership has touched the lives of countless people; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
10 Legislature hereby congratulate the Reverend Mark Craig on his
11 retirement as senior minister of Highland Park United Methodist
12 Church and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be
13 it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for Reverend Craig as an expression of high regard by the
16 Texas House of Representatives.