

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 974

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Carmel Baptist Church on the occasion of its 160th anniversary; and

**WHEREAS**, This historic house of worship was established on May 6, 1853, on land owned by Zachariah Ellison in what is today Lindale; it represented the shared religious mission of the original six members; its pastor was the Reverend John Bledsoe, and Milton Carter was chosen as deacon and church clerk; and

**WHEREAS**, These early worshippers attended services faithfully, and by October of 1865, the membership had grown to 91 people, 26 of whom were African American; and

**WHEREAS**, In November of that year, the church authorized membership letters for its African American brethren, who then started Duck Creek Baptist Church, and the two churches have maintained a cordial relationship to this day; and

**WHEREAS**, Since the founding of Carmel Baptist Church, it has been overseen by more than 40 pastors, including the current minister, James E. Cheatham; and

**WHEREAS**, Over the decades, this historic church has provided a spiritual home and a place of peace for its members, and its evangelistic and mission-minded congregation has grown in its commitment and faith; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, hereby commend the members of Carmel Baptist Church on the occasion of the church's 160th anniversary; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the church in honor of this milestone and as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Deuell

---

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 15, 2013.

---

Secretary of the Senate

---

Member, Texas Senate