

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The members of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Austin are
2 celebrating the 140th anniversary of their church's founding on
3 February 15, 2015; and

4 WHEREAS, Also known as Third Baptist Church, this venerable
5 house of worship traces its history to February 1875, when the
6 Reverend C. Ward and 18 charter members gathered in the home of
7 Elisa Hawkins, and the congregation soon built a frame structure a
8 few blocks away, at the corner of Catalpa and Curve Streets; and

9 WHEREAS, Within its first decade, the church outgrew that
10 initial building, and in 1885 the membership completed construction
11 of a new home at East 10th and San Marcos Streets, the same location
12 Ebenezer Baptist occupies today; the present Gothic-style
13 limestone and brick sanctuary dates to the early 1950s, and the
14 tower features the same bell that was used in the church's early
15 years; and

16 WHEREAS, Ebenezer Baptist Church has nurtured a rich
17 tradition of musical excellence, due in large part to the efforts of
18 Virgie Carrington-Dewitty, who served as director of music for more
19 than a half-century; it was under her direction in 1938 that the
20 Ebenezer choir became the first African American gospel group to be
21 heard on a commercial radio program in Texas; and

22 WHEREAS, Over the decades, Ebenezer Baptist Church has
23 benefited from the dedicated efforts of a number of outstanding
24 members of the clergy, including its current pastor, the Reverend

1 Dr. Ricky Freeman, who has ably led the congregation since 2012; a
2 centerpiece of the local community, the church offers a variety of
3 commendable programs, including those focused on mission outreach
4 and youth development, and its scholarship committee annually
5 provides financial assistance to the congregation's college-bound
6 members; moreover, the church formed the East Austin Economic
7 Development Corporation in 1988, an initiative that has partnered
8 with other organizations and businesses to revitalize underserved
9 areas of the city; and

10 WHEREAS, Countless Austin residents have looked to Ebenezer
11 Baptist Church for spiritual guidance during its long history, and
12 the congregation is indeed deserving of special recognition as it
13 marks this special anniversary milestone; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
15 Legislature hereby commemorate the 140th anniversary of the
16 founding of Ebenezer Baptist Church and extend to the church's
17 congregants sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for the church as an expression of high regard by the Texas
20 House of Representatives.

Dukes

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| Straus | Guerra | Otto |
| Allen | Guillen | Paddie |
| Alonzo | Gutierrez | Parker |
| Alvarado | Harless | Paul |
| Anchia | Hernandez | Peña |
| Anderson of Dallas | Herrero | Phelan |
| Anderson of McLennan | Howard | Phillips |
| Ashby | Huberty | Pickett |
| Aycock | Hughes | Price |
| Bell | Hunter | Raney |
| Blanco | Isaac | Raymond |
| Bohac | Israel | Reynolds |
| Bonnen of Brazoria | Johnson | Riddle |
| Bonnen of Galveston | Kacal | Rinaldi |
| Burkett | Keffer | Rodriguez of Bexar |
| Burns | Keough | Rodriguez of Travis |
| Burrows | King of Hemphill | Romero, Jr. |
| Button | King of Parker | Rose |
| Canales | King of Taylor | Sanford |
| Capriglione | King of Uvalde | Schaefer |
| Clardy | Klick | Schofield |
| Coleman | Koop | Shaheen |
| Collier | Krause | Sheets |
| Cook | Kuempel | Sheffield |
| Craddick | Landgraf | Simmons |
| Crownover | Larson | Simpson |
| Dale | Laubenberg | Smith |
| Darby | Leach | Smithee |
| Davis of Dallas | Longoria | Spitzer |
| Davis of Harris | Lozano | Springer |
| Deshotel | Lucio III | Stephenson |
| Dukes | Márquez | Stickland |
| Dutton | Martinez | Thompson of Brazoria |
| Elkins | Martinez Fischer | Thompson of Harris |
| Faircloth | McClendon | Tinderholt |
| Fallon | Menéndez | Turner of Collin |
| Farias | Metcalf | Turner of Harris |
| Farney | Meyer | Turner of Tarrant |
| Farrar | Miles | VanDeaver |
| Fletcher | Miller of Comal | Villalba |
| Flynn | Miller of Fort Bend | Vo |
| Frank | Moody | Walle |
| Frullo | Morrison | White of Bell |
| Galindo | Muñoz, Jr. | White of Tyler |
| Geren | Murphy | Workman |
| Giddings | Murr | Wray |
| Goldman | Naishtat | Wu |
| Gonzales | Nevárez | Zedler |
| González | Oliveira | Zerwas |

H.R. No. 400

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 400 was adopted by the House on February 11, 2015, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House