

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 807

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud members of First Shiloh Missionary Baptist  
2 Church in Houston are gathering on March 15, 2015, to dedicate a  
3 Texas Historical Marker that honors this venerable place of  
4 worship; and

5 WHEREAS, Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church was established in  
6 1891 by former residents of Shreveport, Louisiana, who had  
7 relocated to Houston following a flood; one of the earliest African  
8 American Baptist churches in the Fifth Ward, "The Louisiana  
9 Church," as it was commonly known, initially met in private homes  
10 and then rented a neighborhood hall for services; subsequently, the  
11 members purchased a site on Providence Street, where they occupied  
12 a remodeled house before building a stately stone edifice; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1953, the City of Houston bought the Providence  
14 Street property for highway construction; the church found a new  
15 site on Lyons Avenue and hired John S. Chase Jr., the first African  
16 American architect licensed in Texas, to design and build a  
17 sanctuary; on June 12, 1955, the congregation moved into its new  
18 home, and the church's name was changed to First Shiloh Missionary  
19 Baptist; and

20 WHEREAS, Since its inception, the church has benefited from  
21 the dedicated efforts of many outstanding members of the clergy,  
22 including Pastor B. H. Roberts, who served the congregation for 35  
23 years; over the course of its history, the church has counted among  
24 its members such prominent figures as Louise Ozelle Martin, who ran

1 a photography school and used her camera to chronicle black society  
2 in Houston, and Catherine Adams, whose work as a volunteer inspired  
3 the city to name a park in her honor; and

4 WHEREAS, For 124 years, First Shiloh Missionary Baptist  
5 Church has been a source of inspiration and guidance to area  
6 residents, and this recognition from the Texas Historical  
7 Commission is a fitting tribute to its rich and storied past and to  
8 the significant role it has played in the community; now,  
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
11 Legislature hereby commemorate the dedication of the Texas  
12 Historical Marker at First Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in  
13 Houston and extend to the church's clergy, congregation, and guests  
14 sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable event; and, be it  
15 further

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