

By: White of Tyler

H.R. No. 1947

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The members of Beech Creek Baptist Church are
2 marking a momentous event in the history of their church with the
3 celebration of its 160th anniversary in 2015; and

4 WHEREAS, Believed to be the oldest Baptist church in Tyler
5 County, Beech Creek Baptist was organized by eight charter members
6 on September 24, 1855, in the home of Captain James G. Collier, with
7 early worship services conducted in a local schoolhouse; the church
8 welcomed both Anglo and African Americans as members of the
9 congregation, and in 1867, Beech Creek ordained Henry Gainer, an
10 African American minister; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1892, after years of steady growth, the church
12 erected its first sanctuary on a parcel of land donated by Captain
13 Collier; the 20th century saw the organization of a Sunday school in
14 1905 and later, in 1969, the construction of a building to house
15 educational and recreational programs; in 1989, a memorial building
16 fund was established and named in honor of Addie Jordan, who
17 rendered 75 years of faithful service to the church, and in 2011,
18 construction began on a new fellowship hall under the leadership of
19 Pastor Jack Lewellen; the 141st anniversary of the church was
20 celebrated with the dedication of an official Texas Historical
21 Marker from the Texas Historical Commission in 1996; and

22 WHEREAS, Since its inception, Beech Creek Baptist Church has
23 been guided by some 40 different pastors, many of whom were called
24 to serve the congregation multiple times; its devoted and

1 civic-minded membership has sponsored local and regional
2 ministries, as well as myriad outreach efforts for the benefit of
3 the wider community; and

4 WHEREAS, Beech Creek Baptist Church has long served as a
5 spiritual bedrock in the community, and the continued existence of
6 this historic church attests to the loyalty of its congregants,
7 past and present, whose efforts have sustained its vital mission;
8 now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
10 Legislature hereby commemorate the 160th anniversary of the
11 founding of Beech Creek Baptist Church and extend to its
12 congregation sincere best wishes for many more years of shared
13 prayer and fellowship; and, be it further

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