

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 773**

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Pastor Joe Fred Russell on the occasion of his 20th anniversary as pastor of Greater Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, which is being celebrated May 28, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, After having served as pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church in Corrigan, Pastor Russell became a pastor at Greater Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church on May 7, 1997; under his outstanding leadership, the church has continued to grow and to play a vital role in the life of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, Pastor Russell has been instrumental in the creation of numerous new ministries, projects, and programs, including a renovation of the church and the creation of a bus ministry, a counseling center, and a community recreation center; he led the way as members overcame the hardships imposed by the severe damage to the church from Hurricane Ike; and

**WHEREAS**, A man of spiritual depth and devotion, he has performed countless ceremonies and rites; he has prayed with and counseled church members in times of hardship and bereavement and rejoiced with them in times of prosperity and celebration; and

**WHEREAS**, An accomplished scholar and theologian, Pastor Russell has had a profound impact on the lives of countless people; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby commend Pastor Joe Fred Russell on 20 years of exceptional service to the congregation of Greater Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for him as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Garcia

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 15, 2017.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate