86R15193 ST-D

By:  Harless H.R. No. 637

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The members of Pilgrim Branch Missionary Baptist Church in Houston are celebrating the 150th anniversary of their church's founding in June 2019; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1869 under the leadership of the Reverend Mack Austin, the former Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church was created to serve a newly freed people following the end of the Civil War; in its early years, it was located in the lowlands on Faulkey Gully but after persistent troubles with flooding, the church moved north to an area known as Kohrville, and the Reverend Phil Blackstock became its first pastor; and

WHEREAS, Since its organization, Pilgrim Branch has benefited from the dedicated efforts of many outstanding clergy, and today that tradition of service is continued by the Reverend Herman L. Pickens; and

WHEREAS, United by their shared faith and strong traditions, the members of this notable house of worship have established a variety of commendable programs that foster fellowship and offer help to those in need, including a food pantry, a sick and bereavement support group, a praise choir, and a youth ministry; and

WHEREAS, Countless Houston residents have looked to Pilgrim Branch for spiritual guidance over the years, and it is a pleasure to join in honoring the church at this special time in its rich history; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the 150th anniversary of Pilgrim Branch Missionary Baptist Church and extend to Reverend Pickens and the congregation sincere best wishes for many more years of shared prayer and communion; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Pilgrim Branch Missionary Baptist Church as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.