

By: Harless

H.R. No. 637

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

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

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

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

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