H.R. No. 197

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The members of Antioch Baptist Church in Freestone County are celebrating the 150th anniversary of their church's founding in 2021; and

WHEREAS, The congregation was established as Antioch Baptist Church of Christ in 1871 under its first pastor, the Reverend John Webb, who is buried on the grounds; in the early decades, a circuit preacher held services once a month, and in 1953, regular weekly services began; and

WHEREAS, The church's original sanctuary was a plain, box-like structure heated by wood-burning stoves, and it also served as a school until a proper schoolhouse was built nearby; the grounds featured willow brush arbors that were eventually replaced with a pavilion that was used for revival meetings and outdoor services; over the years, the rebuilding and renovation of the church has been financed by such community efforts as planting and harvesting cotton, as well as selling chickens, eggs, quilts, and boxed dinners; and

WHEREAS, Since its organization, Antioch Baptist Church has benefited from the dedicated efforts of a number of outstanding clergy, including Pastor Cody Craig, who leads the congregation today; 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; and

WHEREAS, Countless residents of Fairfield and Freestone County have looked to Antioch Baptist Church for spiritual guidance through 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 87th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the 150th anniversary of Antioch Baptist Church and extend to the congregation sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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

Harris

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 197 was adopted by the House on March 18, 2021, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House