

By: Harris

H.R. No. 197

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, Since its organization, Antioch Baptist Church has
19 benefited from the dedicated efforts of a number of outstanding
20 clergy, including Pastor Cody Craig, who leads the congregation
21 today; united by their shared faith and strong traditions, the
22 members of this notable house of worship have established a variety
23 of commendable programs that foster fellowship and offer help to
24 those in need; and

1 WHEREAS, Countless residents of Fairfield and Freestone
2 County have looked to Antioch Baptist Church for spiritual guidance
3 through the years, and it is a pleasure to join in honoring the
4 church at this special time in its rich history; now, therefore, be
5 it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
7 Legislature hereby commemorate the 150th anniversary of Antioch
8 Baptist Church and extend to the congregation sincere best wishes
9 for the future; and, be it further

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