

By: Leo Wilson

H.R. No. 1

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Members of the Wallisville community are
2 celebrating the relaunch of Eminence Baptist Church as The Cross
3 Baptist Church on July 27, 2025; and

4 WHEREAS, This venerable religious institution can trace its
5 origins back to 1893, when it began ministering to families near the
6 Trinity River under the name Turtle Bay Baptist Church; the
7 congregation built its first sanctuary on a donated acre of land in
8 the woods, and it held frequent services with a preacher visiting
9 once a month; and

10 WHEREAS, The church later relocated to a nearby parcel of
11 land along the highway, where it erected a one-room building; after
12 reorganizing as Eminence Baptist Church, the congregation went on
13 to thrive for many years; then in 2023, following a wave of
14 community disengagement, the church initiated revitalization
15 efforts with the support of the Southern Baptists of Texas
16 Convention and the North American Mission Board; this endeavor has
17 culminated in the congregation's replanting as The Cross Baptist
18 Church; and

19 WHEREAS, Over the years, the church has benefited from the
20 dedicated efforts of many outstanding clergy, including Pastor
21 Shannon Cunningham, who leads the congregation today; united by
22 their shared faith and strong traditions, the members of this
23 notable house of worship have established a variety of commendable
24 programs that foster fellowship and offer help to those in need; and

1 WHEREAS, Countless Wallisville residents have looked to
2 The Cross Baptist Church for spiritual guidance through the years,
3 and it is a pleasure to join in honoring the church at this special
4 time in its history; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
6 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commemorate the relaunch of
7 Eminence Baptist Church as The Cross Baptist Church and extend to
8 its members sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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