

By: Miles

S.R. No. 325

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Congregants from Brentwood Baptist Church in  
2 Houston are gathering in Austin on March 25, 2025, to visit the  
3 State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, On June 17, 1965, Brentwood Baptist was founded by  
5 12 members who held meetings at a local elementary school until a  
6 parcel of land could be purchased; in its early years, the church  
7 benefited from the leadership of pastors Dr. Donald Carroll and  
8 Dr. Herbert Nash; the Reverend Dr. Joe Samuel Ratliff was elected  
9 pastor of the congregation in 1980, and he has since guided it  
10 through more than four decades of substantial growth; his wife,  
11 Doris Ernestine Gardner Ratliff, serves alongside him as the first  
12 lady of the church; and

13 WHEREAS, Under Reverend Ratliff's leadership, the church saw  
14 the addition of several new buildings throughout the 1980s,  
15 including a prayer chapel and a worship center, and in 1997, the  
16 Brentwood Cottages were constructed to serve as transitional  
17 housing for individuals living with HIV/AIDS; by 2000, the church's  
18 membership had grown from 500 to 12,000, and it had acquired 105  
19 additional acres of land; moreover, the Doris Gardner Ratliff  
20 Center for Child Development was completed in 2000, and the  
21 75,000-square-foot Joe Samuel Ratliff Lifelong Learning Center was  
22 added in 2001; and

23 WHEREAS, This venerable religious institution has played a  
24 vital role in the community, providing its members with myriad

1 opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship, and outreach; its  
2 75 ministries include the Brentwood Community Foundation, which  
3 works to improve the quality of life of the greater Houston  
4 community, and the church also has special programs for congregants  
5 of all ages; and

6 WHEREAS, Countless Houston residents have looked to  
7 Brentwood Baptist Church for spiritual guidance through the years,  
8 and it is a pleasure to join in welcoming the congregation to the  
9 State Capitol; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 89th Texas Legislature  
11 hereby honor Brentwood Baptist Church and extend to its members  
12 sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable stay in Austin;  
13 and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
15 prepared for the church as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
16 Senate.