

By: Hughes

S.R. No. 637

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For seven decades, families have come together to
2 celebrate their faith at Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler; and

3 WHEREAS, Established on May 1, 1955, with nearly 300 charter
4 members, Green Acres Baptist Church has since played a vital role in
5 the community, providing area residents with myriad opportunities
6 for spiritual growth, fellowship, and community outreach; its
7 ministries serve numerous groups, among them young and senior
8 adults, couples, singles, married adults, women, men, people with
9 disabilities, and people in recovery; it also offers a preschool
10 ministry and a ministry for children with disabilities, staffed by
11 adults experienced in the field; in addition, its multifaceted
12 GraceWorks ministry incorporates counseling; and

13 WHEREAS, Green Acres Baptist has benefited from the able
14 leadership of a number of notable pastors, beginning with Pastor
15 Cecil Johnson, who was succeeded in 1962 by Pastor Lester Collins;
16 Pastor Paul Powell guided the church for 17 years beginning in 1972,
17 and David Dykes became senior pastor in 1991; since 2021,
18 Dr. Michael Gossett has served as lead pastor; the current
19 leadership further includes Todd Haymans, executive pastor of
20 ministries, Dr. John Roach, missions pastor, Eddy Espinosa,
21 business and operations administrator, and Hixon Frank, associate
22 pastor; and

23 WHEREAS, Affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention,
24 the church has grown through the years to encompass two campuses, in

1 Tyler and in Flint; its membership exceeds 18,000, and its services
2 garner an average weekend attendance of approximately 4,000; Sunday
3 services in Tyler feature the Worship Choir, and the Highest Praise
4 Choir, for adults age 55 and older, also performs nationally and at
5 local nursing, retirement, and assisted living facilities;
6 moreover, adult musicians in the orchestra provide music for both
7 worship services and special events; the church also offers
8 recreational opportunities at its Family Life Center, Retreat
9 Center, and Green Acres Sports Complex; and

10 WHEREAS, Members of the church are dedicated to sharing their
11 faith in missions at home and abroad; recently, congregants
12 traveled to Kenya, and they plan to take many other missions in 2025
13 to places ranging from Bucksport, Maine, to Colombia; the church
14 maintains a host of local outreach partnerships as well with such
15 organizations as Bethesda Health Clinic, Breckenridge Village,
16 Celebrate Recovery, Christian Women's Job Corps, Hope Haven of East
17 Texas, Mentoring Alliance, Refuge of Light, The Fostering
18 Collective, and Triumph Village, Tyler; connect groups and
19 volunteers from the church serve schools in the Tyler Independent
20 School District and have collaborated with Churches Serving
21 Schools, a community-wide group of churches; moreover, the
22 congregation participates in disaster relief and prison ministry;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Green Acres Baptist Church has long served as a
25 source of inspiration and spiritual enrichment to those who worship
26 there, and its continued existence is a tribute to the unwavering
27 commitment of its members, both past and present; now, therefore,

1 be it

2 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 89th Texas Legislature
3 hereby commemorate the 70th anniversary of Green Acres Baptist
4 Church and extend to the congregation sincere best wishes for many
5 more years of shared prayer and fellowship; and, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
7 prepared for the church as an expression of high regard by the Texas
8 Senate.