

SJR53 INTRODUCED



1 SJR53

2 A9LLQS7-1

3 By Senators Hovey, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley, Bell,

4 Butler, Carnley, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman,

5 Coleman-Madison, Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher,

6 Jones, Kelley, Kitchens, Livingston, Melson, Orr, Price, Reed,

7 Roberts, Sessions, Shelnuttt, Singleton, Smitherman, Stewart,

8 Stutts, Waggoner, Weaver, Williams

9 RFD:

10 First Read: 16-Apr-24



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SJR___ CELEBRATING THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF PROVIDENCE
BAPTIST CHURCH.

WHEREAS, highest commendations and congratulations
are herein proudly presented to Providence Baptist Church on
the momentous occasion of its 140th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, Providence Baptist Church, located South of
Opelika in the Community of Beauregard, was organized in
1884 and became affiliated with the Tuskegee Baptist
Association, now the Tuskegee-Lee Baptist Association, in
1904; and

WHEREAS, in its 140-year history, generations of
Providence families have watched the church grow from a
one-room, wooden-frame structure, to a larger concrete block
building in 1948, to the present facility which includes the
sanctuary building built in 1965 and a children's education
building built in 1973; the church acquired 41 acres of land
across the street from the original church and voted in
January 2001 to build the "West Campus"; and

WHEREAS, the congregation of Providence Baptist
Church has grown to over 1,700 members who continue to hold
to the original, deep Christian commitment to give
generously to help the church grow and thrive; leading the
way as a mission-minded church, a percentage of the
congregation's tithes and offerings goes for support of The



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29 Cooperative Program, Association Missions, World Hunger, The
30 Children's Homes, Annuity for Retired Pastors, and Home
31 Mission Field, along with many other benevolent ministries;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, the Sunday School organization started in
34 1930 and was promoted by Mrs. Mary Mayberry out of concern
35 for the teaching of scripture to children in the community;
36 Bible study and its application to life continue to be an
37 important part of Providence Baptist Church; and

38 WHEREAS, church records from 1904 indicate that 21
39 pastors have been called to lead the congregation;
40 Missionary Pastor D.S. Duffee is the first pastor on record
41 as reported by the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission;
42 and

43 WHEREAS, Dr. Rusty J. Sowell was called in April of
44 1984 to lead the congregation, and he has faithfully served
45 as pastor for the past 40 years; Dr. Thomas R. Smith, has
46 served as the Minister of Music since 1974, and Reverend
47 Chuck Adams has served as the Minister to Students and
48 Associate Pastor since 2004; together they have a combined
49 total of 110 years of leading, challenging, and inspiring
50 the Providence Baptist Church congregation; and

51 WHEREAS, a remarkable congregation, Providence
52 Baptist Church has been passionately sharing the Word and
53 love of God, transforming lives, and bringing people
54 together in fellowship and worship for 140 years; and

55 WHEREAS, today, as in the beginning, this community
56 of faith continues to believe and profess that their best



SJR53 INTRODUCED

57 days are before them; they seek to be the body of Christ,
58 reaching out to the community in the name of the Lord and to
59 the Glory of the Lord; now therefore,

60 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
61 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Providence Baptist Church is
62 highly honored and commended on its milestone 140th
63 Anniversary, and this resolution is offered to the pastors
64 and congregation in deepest admiration and appreciation,
65 along with sincere best wishes for continued blessings.