SLS 11RS-2559 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2011

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 92

BY SENATOR MORRELL

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Reverend Fred Luter Jr. of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, on being elected vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To commend Reverend Fred Luter Jr. of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, on being elected
3	vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.
4	WHEREAS, at their annual conference in Phoenix, Arizona, the Southern Baptist
5	Convention (SBC), the nation's largest denomination, elected its first African American vice
6	president, Reverend Fred Luter Jr.; and
7	WHEREAS, some SBC leaders have expressed hope that his election will mean a
8	rise to president next year when the 2012 convention is held in New Orleans, Louisiana; and
9	WHEREAS, since its organization in 1845 in Augusta, Georgia, the SBC has grown
10	to over sixteen million members who worship in more than forty-two thousand churches in
11	the United States; and
12	WHEREAS, the term SBC refers to both the denomination and its annual meeting,
13	working through twelve hundred local associations, and forty-one state conventions and
14	fellowships; and
15	WHEREAS, Reverend Luter attributes his success to God, beginning his career as
16	what he fondly refers to as a street preacher; and
17	WHEREAS, before he was called in 1986 to serve the Franklin Avenue Baptist
18	Church (FABC) in New Orleans, Louisiana, he spent his time preaching on different street

1	corners in the Lower Ninth Ward, where he grew up; and
2	WHEREAS, after receiving his call to the ministry three years earlier, the members
3	of FABC elected him pastor, even through he had no pastoral experience; and
4	WHEREAS, today, Reverend Luter is a well respected leader, preacher, and speaker,
5	making headlines in 1992, when he was elected as the first African American to the
6	executive board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention; and
7	WHEREAS, starting with only sixty five members in 1986, reverend Luter has led
8	FABC to over eight thousand members, making it the largest Southern Baptist church in the
9	state of Louisiana, which embodies the mission statement to "spiritually impact families,
10	neighborhoods, cities, and the state by exalting the Savior"; and
11	WHEREAS, of the two thousand and twelve SBC ballots, Reverend Luter received
12	one thousand five hundred and fifty-eight or seventy-seven percent of the votes to be SBC's
13	next vice president; and
14	WHEREAS, Daniel Akin, president of the Southeastern Baptist Theological
15	Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina, nominated Reverend Luter, calling him "one of
16	SBC's most popular and beloved preachers, and is in constant demand to speak in schools,
17	colleges, seminaries, and conferences all across the nation"; and
18	WHEREAS, in his nomination, Akin reminded delegates that Reverend Luter, in
19	2001, was the first African American to preach the SBC convention sermon, and also served
20	as an SBC second vice president; and
21	WHEREAS, in August 2005, Reverend Luter lost his home and the FABC to the
22	floodwaters of Hurricane Katrina, and still, he traveled across the nation to minister to
23	displaced SBC members pushing one of his favorite sayings "if you save the man, the man
24	will save his family"; and
25	WHEREAS, Reverend Luter and his wife, Elizabeth, have two children, Kimberly
26	Ann and Fred "Chip" Luter III.
27	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
28	commend Reverend Fred Luter Jr. of Franklin Baptist Church on being elected vice
29	president of the Southern Baptist Convention.
30	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to

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1 Reverend Fred Luter Jr.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michelle Broussard-Johnson.

DIGEST

Morrell SCR No.

Commends Reverend Fred Luter Jr. of Franklin Baptist Church on being elected vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.