

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 92

BY SENATOR MORRELL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, at their annual conference in Phoenix, Arizona, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), the nation's largest denomination, elected its first African American vice president, Reverend Fred Luter Jr.; and

WHEREAS, some SBC leaders have expressed hope that his election will mean a rise to president next year when the 2012 convention is held in New Orleans, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, since its organization in 1845 in Augusta, Georgia, the SBC has grown to over sixteen million members who worship in more than forty-two thousand churches in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the term SBC refers to both the denomination and its annual meeting, working through twelve hundred local associations, and forty-one state conventions and fellowships; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Luter attributes his success to God, beginning his career as what he fondly refers to as a street preacher; and

WHEREAS, before he was called in 1986 to serve the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church (FABC) in New Orleans, Louisiana, he spent his time preaching on different street corners in the Lower Ninth Ward, where he grew up; and

WHEREAS, after receiving his call to the ministry three years earlier, the members of FABC elected him pastor, even though he had no pastoral experience; and

WHEREAS, today, Reverend Luter is a well respected leader, preacher, and speaker, making headlines in 1992, when he was elected as the first African American to the executive board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, starting with only sixty-five members in 1986, Reverend Luter has led FABC to over eight thousand members, making it the largest Southern Baptist church in the state of Louisiana, which embodies the mission statement to "spiritually impact families, neighborhoods, cities, and the state by exalting the Savior"; and

WHEREAS, of the two thousand and twelve SBC ballots, Reverend Luter received one thousand five hundred and fifty-eight or seventy-seven percent of the votes to be SBC's next vice president; and

WHEREAS, Daniel Akin, President of the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina, nominated Reverend Luter, calling him "one of SBC's most popular and beloved preachers, and is in constant demand to speak in schools, colleges, seminaries, and conferences all across the nation"; and

WHEREAS, in his nomination, Akin reminded delegates that Reverend Luter, in 2001, was the first African American to preach the SBC convention sermon, and also served as an SBC second vice president; and

WHEREAS, in August 2005, Reverend Luter lost his home and the FABC to the floodwaters of Hurricane Katrina, and still, he traveled across the nation to minister to displaced SBC members pushing one of his favorite sayings "if you save the man, the man will save his family"; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Luter and his wife, Elizabeth, have two children, Kimberly Ann and Fred "Chip" Luter III.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Reverend Fred Luter Jr. of Franklin Baptist Church on being elected vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Reverend Fred Luter Jr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES