

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 835

By West

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Reverend Robert J. Morgan for thirty years of meritorious service to The Donelson Fellowship.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body should honor those individuals who have answered a divine call to the ministry and who have served with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm to perform God's work for their congregations and their communities; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Robert J. Morgan is one such stalwart servant of the Lord, who faithfully serves as the Senior Pastor of The Donelson Fellowship Church; and

WHEREAS, on Sunday, January 10, 2010, Pastor Morgan celebrated his thirtieth pastoral anniversary with his wife, Katrina Polvinen Morgan, as well as family members, friends, and members of The Donelson Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, in his thirty years of service at The Donelson Fellowship, Reverend Morgan has used his vision and compassion to thrust the church into service as a beacon of light for twenty-first century ministry, and through adroit Christian leadership, he has served citizens all over his community; and

WHEREAS, born in Elizabethton to John and Edith Morgan, Robert Morgan is a graduate of Eunaka High School; he went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree at Columbia Bible College, a Master of Arts degree in Christian Education at Wheaton College in Chicago, and a Master of Divinity at Luther Rice Seminary; and

WHEREAS, he accepted his calling to the ministry and preached his first sermon in 1968 at the First Freewill Baptist Church in Elizabethton; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Morgan's first pastorate was with the congregation at Harris Memorial Freewill Baptist Church in Greeneville, prior to accepting the call to become the fifth full-time pastor of the Donelson Freewill Baptist Church on January 1, 1980; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Morgan has been instrumental in leading the Donelson church successfully through a number of significant growth periods, including a major addition in 1987, the change of its name to The Donelson Fellowship in the mid-1980s, a second major addition in 1997, and the building of a modern children's ministry area and total renovation of all existing facilities in 2008; and

WHEREAS, under Reverend Morgan's guidance, The Donelson Fellowship has grown from approximately ninety members to over 1,000 members, with an average of about 800 on Sunday mornings; and

WHEREAS, during his pastorate, the church has also prospered by growing its budget from \$75,000 to the current budget of \$1.3 million; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Morgan has established himself as an author during his time at The Donelson Fellowship, having published more than twenty books, including *The Red Sea Rules*, *The Promise*, *Then Sings My Soul* (Volumes 1 and 2), *My All in All*, *Near to the Heart of God*, and the forthcoming *100 Bible Verses that Everybody on Earth Should Know by Heart*; and

WHEREAS, Robert Morgan is thankful for the loving companionship of his wife, Katrina; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Robert Morgan truly exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable thirty years as a humble servant of God, Reverend Morgan has demonstrated the utmost ability and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his friends, his family, and the many members of The Donelson Fellowship; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize Reverend Robert J. Morgan for thirty years of meritorious service to The Donelson Fellowship, thank him for his humble servitude, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success in his fruitful ministry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.