

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 997

By Casada

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Green Grove Primitive Baptist Church.

WHEREAS, the churches of our nation have been an integral part of our history as a people and have had an unparalleled impact in forming and maintaining a stable and just society; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic and historic community of faith is Green Grove Primitive Baptist Church, the members of which are celebrating the church's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary on March 22, 2020; and

WHEREAS, after the Civil War, the community of Triune found themselves in need of a church and a school for their children; and

WHEREAS, people soon learned of a young minister from Rutherford County, Elder Robert Howse, who was traveling and preaching throughout the area; his first gathering in Triune was so well-received that a regular monthly service was established. At times, the service was held in someone's home, and on other occasions, it was held under a tree; and

WHEREAS, the church was organized in 1870 and named Green Grove United Primitive Baptist Church, and Brother D. K. Bostic, Gus Bostic, and Brother Webb were among the men chosen to serve as deacons; and

WHEREAS, Deacon D. K. Bostic donated a piece of land that was high on a hill overlooking what is now Horton Highway for the purpose of constructing a church and a school; all able-bodied members of the community, regardless of their age, worked together to construct

these two buildings, with the men cutting down trees in the forest while the women prepared food for the workers; and

WHEREAS, the new church and school were built at night because the men had to continue working during the daytime hours; the women held oil lamps and lanterns so the men could see to drive the nails into the lumber; and

WHEREAS, upon the church's completion, the congregation met on the fourth Sunday of every month, with a weekly prayer meeting held on Wednesday night; and

WHEREAS, since its founding, Green Grove Primitive Baptist Church has been blessed with six wonderful men of God who have led church members in a better understanding of His Word: Elder Robert Howse, Elder A. M. Bedford, Elder R. A. Wright, Elder Henry Dozier, Elder J. E. Taylor, and Elder Richard Lloyd, who has served as the church's pastor since 1980; and

WHEREAS, today, the congregation worships in a new edifice that was constructed in 2001 and whose foundation sits on the location of the original building; and

WHEREAS, Green Grove Primitive Baptist Church continues to be a light in the community, and the devout members of the congregation faithfully strive to carry out God's work in the world; and

WHEREAS, as a powerful tool in the service of the Kingdom of God, Green Grove Primitive Baptist Church is truly one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and nation, and the members of this exceptional congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join in the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Green Grove Primitive Baptist Church, thank the good people of this historic congregation and their ministers for their notable service to their Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.