

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1111

By Evans

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Robertson County Baptist Association on the occasion of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those venerable religious organizations and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, founded on the principles of fellowship with churches of like faith and practices, the Robertson County Missionary Baptist Association was established, focusing on a localized union of churches and congregations to implement joint missions and ministries while maintaining local church autonomies; and

WHEREAS, sixteen churches gathered at the Springfield Baptist Church in Springfield, Tennessee, on November 9, 1915, to form the Robertson County Missionary Baptist Association, which later shortened its name to the Robertson County Baptist Association (RCBA), and from its inception has included churches in Robertson County and its neighboring counties; and

WHEREAS, the member churches of the Robertson County Baptist Association continue to participate in joint missions and ministry efforts, including their affiliation with both the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention causes; and

WHEREAS, the association has grown tremendously in the past 100 years to include more members and greater visionary responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, in 1915, the sixteen RCBA member churches had a total membership of 3,316 congregants, and today, RCBA serves thirty-six member churches, thirty-one of which are

located in Robertson County, three in Sumner County, and two in Cheatham County, with a congregation totaling 14,794; and

WHEREAS, in 1917, the association supported foreign, home, and state missions, children homes, Christian education, and ministerial relief, but had no established mission or ministry programs; and

WHEREAS, RCBA now serves its members in numerous capacities, including educational opportunities through English Language Learners classes, a counseling ministry, a disaster relief recovery unit, a construction team, and a mission project assisting the population residing in and around Lynch, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the association has assisted with the establishment of a Hispanic mission church in Springfield and plans to begin another such church; and

WHEREAS, RCBA provides training for its churches in key areas, including Sunday School, discipleship training, Vacation Bible School, men's ministry, Royal Ambassadors, Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Acteens, Women's Missionary Union, and youth work; and

WHEREAS, RCBA also provides training for church leaders with an opportunity for fellowship and encouragement among pastors, deacons, and administrative staff; and

WHEREAS, the association is managed by three devoted individuals, director of missions since 2000, Dr. Robert E. Tyson, Sr., ministry assistant since 1987, Kay Woods, and part-time ministry assistant since 2013, Janice Bierod, who work assiduously to promote the Baptist mission in the Robertson County Area; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tyson has been instrumental in the organization's growth, joining five new churches with the association and assisting in the implementation of the Hispanic ministry; and

WHEREAS, as a family of churches in Sumner, Cheatham, and Robertson counties, the association members remain committed to working together in equipping and encouraging one another to fulfill the Great Commission; and

WHEREAS, for 100 years, the Robertson County Baptist Association has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love, serving as a bastion of faith and outreach to the people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the Robertson County Baptist Association on the occasion of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and offer our sincerest wishes for every continued success as an uplifting beacon of the Lord's good will.

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