

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1180

By Coleman

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the pastors and members of First Presbyterian Church of Smyrna on the occasion of the church's 200th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the churches of Tennessee are crucial elements contributing to the social and spiritual health of our State, and the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize significant milestones in the lives of those communities of faith; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those venerable religious congregations that, 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, the good people of First Presbyterian Church of Smyrna comprise one such congregation, and this year they are celebrating the church's 200 years of service to the Lord and their community; and

WHEREAS, the rich history of First Presbyterian Church of Smyrna dates back to 1810, when settlers from the Presbyterian congregation in Old Jefferson, equipped with only a vision to impact the world for Christ and a deep and abiding faith, constructed a square hand-hewn log structure and established what was then called the Smyrna Church; and

WHEREAS, over time, the little settlement developed into a thriving community, and when the railroad tracks were laid through the town in the 1850s, Silas Tucker, a church member and Station Manager, suggested the new city be named Smyrna after the Smyrna Church; and

WHEREAS, by the early 1860s, the War Between the States had engulfed Middle Tennessee, and, in the winter of 1863, Union troops dismantled the log church to use the materials for shelters; and

WHEREAS, with congregational input and expectant prayer, the Smyrna Church leaders decided to rebuild their house of worship, erecting a new, larger brick building in 1867; and

WHEREAS, in 1912, the forward-thinking congregation voted to move into downtown Smyrna and constructed a Gothic style sanctuary complete with an exquisite bell tower; and

WHEREAS, tragedy struck on March 16, 1924 when the stunning church caught fire during the morning worship service and burned to the ground; and

WHEREAS, never losing their resolve or their faith in the Almighty, these humble servants of the Lord restored their holy sanctum in 1925 and continued their worthy mission of spreading the Good News to their members and to the world at large at that site for seventy-five years; and

WHEREAS, because of rapid growth during the industrialization of Smyrna, the flock voted in 1993 to merge with the South Trinity Presbyterian Church of Nashville and re-locate for the final time to its present site in Smyrna; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, First Presbyterian Church of Smyrna has embarked upon countless outreach efforts and witnessed the birth of numerous inspirational and relevant programs, and today it is pleased to invite its members and visitors to participate in its active Youth Program, Wednesday night LOGOS Ministry, Mother's Day Out Program, and flourishing community garden; and

WHEREAS, sacrificing their resources to spread the Word, the members of First Presbyterian Church of Smyrna have touched thousands of lives and impacted the world through their support of various local, national, and world missions; and

WHEREAS, a powerful tool in the service of the Kingdom of God, First Presbyterian Church of Smyrna is one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, First Presbyterian Church of Smyrna has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love for two centuries, serving as a bastion of faith and outreach to the people of Smyrna, the surrounding area, and the world; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we join in celebrating the 200th anniversary of First Presbyterian Church of Smyrna, thank the good people of this remarkable congregation and their ministers for their notable service to their Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness in the years to come.

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