

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 181

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the pastor and congregation of the First Baptist Church of Jonesborough on the celebration of their church's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body 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 community of faith is the First Baptist Church of Jonesborough, the pastor and members of which are celebrating the church's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 2, 2017, as they continue their mission: "To glorify our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in all things"; and

WHEREAS, the First Baptist Church of Jonesborough was organized largely as a result of twelve days of worship and revival meetings held in 1841 by William Cate and Reece Bayless; and

WHEREAS, the church was originally organized as the "Jonesborough Baptist Church" on April 2, 1842; in August 1842, the Holston Association of Baptists met in Carter County, and the Jonesborough Baptist Church was received into the association; and

WHEREAS, built in the Greek revival style, the second home of the First Baptist Church of Jonesborough was completed on its present site in 1852; the original part of this magnificent church appears much as it did when constructed and includes a Troy bell that was made by the Meneely Bell Foundry of West Troy, New York; and

WHEREAS, only four major changes have been made to the church building during its 165-year history; in 1892, the entire interior was remodeled and renovated; in 1918-1919, the sanctuary was enlarged and priceless stained glass windows were installed; in 1947-1948, a three-story educational unit was added; and in the early 1960s, classroom space, the minister's study, a library, a fellowship hall, and a kitchen were built; and

WHEREAS, in early 1853, the church established a school for girls, the Holston Baptist Female Institute, with Mr. and Mrs. R.H. Keeling of Richmond, Virginia, serving as teachers; and

WHEREAS, during the Asiatic Cholera epidemic of June 1873, approximately one-third of the population that remained in Jonesborough perished; First Baptist's pastor, Reverend Thrasher, stayed in town throughout the epidemic, selflessly attending to the needs of the victims, before finally succumbing to the disease himself; and

WHEREAS, today, the First Baptist Church of Jonesborough is affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board and the Holston Baptist Association of Johnson City; the church body is blessed with an active Women's Missionary Union; and

WHEREAS, God has blessed the First Baptist Church of Jonesborough miraculously during its illustrious 175-year history, and its congregation gives thanks to their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for His past and continual blessings; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join in the celebration of the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Baptist Church of Jonesborough, thank the good people of this outstanding congregation 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.