

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 483

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Buffalo Ridge 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 Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church, which has the distinction of being the oldest Baptist church in the State; and

WHEREAS, Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church traces its inception back to the diligent efforts of George Whitfield in the 1700s; through his preaching, many came into the Christian fold, among them Shubal Stearns, who went on to establish his own church in Sandy Creek, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, a great revival broke out at Sandy Creek Baptist Church, such that many inspired men traveled from that place to begin their own congregations; it is said that more than 1,000 extant churches find their roots in Sandy Creek, including Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1770s, Tidence Lane was saved and disciplined under the ministry of Shubal Stearns; Mr. Lane later moved his family from North Carolina to East Tennessee, where, in 1779, they established Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church, so named for the ridge upon which it was located; and

WHEREAS, throughout its long and faithful history, Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church has been blessed with thirty-one pastors, including founder Tidence Lane, Jonathan Mulkey, Samuel Tindell, Gene Lasley, Jody Jenkins, and, currently, John Herdman; and

WHEREAS, one of the church's most notable stewards was pastor Gene Lasley, who came to Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church in 1963 and remained there for forty-six years; during his tenure, the church relocated to the town of Gray, where a new building was constructed in 1965, and ten years later, a larger auditorium was built on the same property; and

WHEREAS, Buffalo Ridge 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, Buffalo Ridge 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 SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize and honor Tennessee's oldest Baptist church, Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church, thank the good people of this historic congregation and their ministers for their notable service to their Lord and this State, 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.