

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7002

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to recognize Shiloh Baptist Church on the occasion of its 200th anniversary.

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

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

WHEREAS, one such dynamic and historic community of faith is Shiloh Baptist Church of Kingston, whose members are celebrating the church's 200th anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, with an extensive history dating back to the 1820s, Shiloh Baptist Church began when members of the community met at the home of William and Nancy Jolley for religious worship; and

WHEREAS, on November 7, 1820, William Jolley purchased land acquired from the Cherokee by the treaty of 1819 in the north half of Section 9, the first township west of the meridian, Hiawassee District; in 1821, Mr. Jolley donated land for the Shiloh Church organizers to use; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Shiloh Baptist Church was split by the events of the American Civil War, and in 1866, the church's minutes ended with a note signed by T.A. Barnard, indicating that the church had decided to restore itself after a political schism in 1865, when several members had been excluded for joining or aiding rebel troops; and

WHEREAS, the church remained split until its reunification in 1979, when Shiloh Baptist Church moved to its second and current sanctuary; the first sanctuary was torn down and rebuilt to what is now the present building, alongside the Family Life Center; and

WHEREAS, Shiloh Baptist Church hosts several missions, such as the Lottie Moon Christmas offering, the Annie Armstrong Easter offering, and collections on Mother's Day for Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes; the members also collect shoe boxes filled with various items for children for Operation Christmas Child, among other initiatives; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its community involvement, Shiloh Baptist Church maintains several ministries, including a lady's ministry, a children's choir, youth groups, and a joy group for seniors; and

WHEREAS, under the current leadership of Pastor Adrian Jones, who has served the church and its ministry for thirteen years, Shiloh Baptist Church continues to serve as a sanctuary for building connections, community, and spiritual growth; and

WHEREAS, Shiloh Baptist Church joined Big Emory Baptist Association in 1971, and the church now boasts 235 devoted members; and

WHEREAS, Shiloh Baptist Church has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love for 200 years, serving as a bastion of faith and outreach to the people of its community; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the church's faith, leadership, and strength of its members, the church has persevered and continues to grow; it 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 THIRTEENTH
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF

REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join in the celebration of the bicentennial anniversary of Shiloh Baptist Church, thank the good people of its congregation and their ministers for their notable service to the Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success.

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.