

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 225

By Kumar

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the congregation of Heads Free Will Baptist Church upon its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

WHEREAS, the many fine churches across this State constitute an institutional foundation for an orderly and just society for all Tennesseans, and their dedicated service to God and humanity is the bedrock upon which our State and nation are founded; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their 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, one such dynamic and historic community of faith is Heads Free Will Baptist Church of Robertson County, and the members of this congregation will honor its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary on September 13, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the third-oldest church in Robertson County, the church was founded by Wilson L. Gower, Wyley H. Head, M. Woodrough, and George Head in 1840; and

WHEREAS, the first pastor is believed to have been Wilson Gower, but many of the original church records were lost in a fire, which destroyed the earliest history of the congregation; and

WHEREAS, other venerable pastors of this church include George R. Head, W. H. Head, James W. Gower, G. E. "Ed" Gower, Joseph F. "Joe" Gower, Raymond Mayo, Donald "Don" Ellis, Hughes Ellis, Roy Jensen, Huey Gower, Keith Morgan, Eric Drake, and Phillip Morgan; and

WHEREAS, Heads Free Will Baptist Church is currently led by Pastor Barry Simpson, who has successfully guided the congregation since 2012; and

WHEREAS, Heads Free Will Baptist Church is dedicated to spreading the Word of God, and missionaries called while members at this church include Wesley and Aileen Calvery, David and Angie Outlaw, and Christa Walker; and

WHEREAS, a powerful institution in service to the Kingdom of God, Heads Free Will Baptist Church is one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and nation; and

WHEREAS, Heads Free Will Baptist Church has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love for 175 years; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby join in celebrating the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Heads Free Will Baptist Church, thank the good people of this remarkable congregation and their pastors for their notable service to their Lord and this State, and wish them much continued success and happiness for 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.