

By: Senator(s) Mettetal

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 7

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE MEMBERS OF THE
2 POPE BAPTIST CHURCH UPON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 130TH ANNIVERSARY
3 CELEBRATION.

4 WHEREAS, amidst the economic depression following the War
5 Between the States, Pope Baptist Church was organized in 1872 at
6 Pope Station, Panola County, Mississippi; and

7 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission has 28
8 full-time pastors on record for Pope Baptist Church. They are as
9 follows: J.H. Collins (1872-1875, 1877-1880, 1882-1883); W.A.
10 Tucker (1875-1877); H.I. Bryant (1881-1882); W.C. Lattimore
11 (1884-1885); H.W. Rockett (1885-1888, 1896-1900, 1903-1906,
12 1913-1914); J.A. Lee (1889-1891, 1893); J.T. Zealy (1892); W.M.
13 Farmer (1894-1895); J.W. Sturdivant (1901); J.E. Buckhanan (1915);
14 J. Givens (1917); R.A. Cooper (1919-1922); W.E. Lee (1922); S.H.
15 Shepherd (1923-1925); R.A. Kimbrough (1928-1930); R.L. Nester
16 (1931); J.R.G. Hewlett (1932-1943); J.H. Sherman (1944-1948); R.W.
17 Gordon (1948-1951); M.P. Jones (1952-1957); Charles Stubblefield
18 (1957-1964); Gerald Coggin (1965-1966); James R. Davis
19 (1966-1969); Everett Denton (1970-1977); Jimmy Furr (1978-1979);
20 Mitchell Osborne (1980-1982); Allen Mullan (1983-1994); Jimmy C.
21 Bryant (1996-Present); and

22 WHEREAS, on October 2, 1885, and March 7, 1887, lots were
23 deeded to the church. The church struggled along with one service
24 per month and no Sunday School until 1911 when J.J. Packer
25 organized a Sunday School and served as its superintendent. At
26 some point during these years, a box type church was built on the



27 property where the church stands today. By 1887, the church
28 membership was up to 65; and

29 WHEREAS, Pope Baptist Church's growth reflected the economy
30 of the region and the country. In the early 1900's the church's
31 economy and enrollment were on the upswing. After wind damaged
32 the church building in 1915, Pope Baptist worshipped with the
33 Methodists. A newly rebuilt church, including four Sunday School
34 rooms, was completed in 1924. Despite the economic hardships of
35 the Great Depression, Pope Baptist Church membership actually
36 increased. In the years following the Great Depression, the
37 church continued to prosper in both membership and contributions.
38 In 1969, the minutes stated, "Paid off church debt"; and

39 WHEREAS, Pope Baptist Church's growth continued into the
40 1980's, and the church needed more room. In March 1982, under
41 Bro. Osborne's leadership, the church began the largest building
42 program in its history to that date. The sanctuary was enlarged
43 to accommodate 300 people, and the church was bricked. Several
44 classrooms, offices and a fellowship hall were added. In 1997, a
45 major remodeling began in the fall of that year, the results of
46 which are quite evident today; and

47 WHEREAS, in the year 2002, with a history of 130 years of
48 growth and service, Pope Baptist Church is a sprawling complex
49 with a total membership over 300; and

50 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
51 spiritual and civic history of the growth of Pope Baptist Church,
52 which serves as an inspiration to its community and to the State
53 of Mississippi:

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
55 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the
56 membership of the Pope Baptist Church upon the occasion of their
57 130th Anniversary Celebration, and extend the best wishes of the
58 Senate for another century of spiritual and community leadership.



59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
60 the Board of Deacons of Pope Baptist Church at anniversary
61 ceremonies on September 29, 2002, and be made available to the
62 Capitol Press Corps.

