HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 97

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE SOUTH MCCOMB BAPTIST CHURCH MEMBERSHIP UPON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY.

WHEREAS, the South McComb Baptist Church membership will celebrate an exceptional milestone, their 100 year anniversary, on March 30, 2003; and

WHEREAS, South McComb Baptist Church was founded in early 1902 by Mr. and Mrs. S. Murray Wilson, and because of a historical phenomenon, which was the combination of two churches, South McComb Baptist Church is in existence today; and

WHEREAS, Whitestown Baptist Church, which was organized on January 27, 1894, passed a resolution on November 7, 1902, that read as follows: "That if the Baptist people in South McComb are willing to purchase a lot in South McComb and build a house for Baptist worship and to hold their membership in it, the Baptist people in Whitestown are willing to join them in the effort to build the house, and to hold our membership with them"; and

WHEREAS, the following resolution was unanimously passed in 1903: "Resolved, that Whitestown Baptist Church do hereby apply to South McComb Baptist Church for membership," and it was understood that the members of the Whitestown Baptist Church transferring to South McComb Baptist Church were to be enrolled as charter members, and on February 8, 1903, the Whitestown Baptist Church appointed their committee "to operate with the committee of the South McComb Church," and five months later these two committees were in the process of building the first church building together; and
WHEREAS, for the first fifty years, South McComb Baptist Church had only four pastors, the first of whom was Reverend J.P. Hemby who served one year, the second pastor was Reverend J.H. Lane who served from 1904 to 1922, the third pastor was Reverend R.R. Jones, and the ministry of James A. Bryant as pastor began on January 18, 1948; and

WHEREAS, a Sunday School was implemented immediately following the organization of the church, a Woman's Missionary Society was active as early as 1905, and a Brotherhood was organized in 1946; and

WHEREAS, church members voted to appoint a building committee for a pastor's home on December 4, 1921, the education annex was built in 1949, and the basement of the church was completely remodeled in 1951; and

WHEREAS, Reverend C.F. Barnes moved to South McComb from Wesson, MS, to serve as pastor in October 1953, and Reverend Herman P. Hayes of Bossier City, LA, accepted the pastorate of South McComb Baptist Church in July 1956, and Brother and Mrs. Hayes served South McComb Baptist Church until July 1959, at which time they departed for South Viet Nam under appointment of the Foreign Mission Board, and Reverend W.R. Gifford moved to South McComb Baptist Church from Picayune, MS, in December 1959; and

WHEREAS, the church built an educational building that served eight elementary departments and dedication services were held for the new elementary building in May 1963; and

WHEREAS, Reverend David A. Millican, who moved to South McComb Baptist Church from Stonewall, MS, began his service on July 15, 1963, and in September 1964, the church voted to proceed with plans to build a new auditorium, which was completed and dedicated in September 1965; and

WHEREAS, in September 1965, Reverend Millican started the Kindergarten Ministry of South McComb Baptist Church, which at one time was the largest kindergarten in Southwest Mississippi, and
the kindergarten has been a strong ministry of South McComb
Baptist Church for 38 years; and

WHEREAS, a new bell tower was constructed on the west side of
the sanctuary and dedicated on Bi-Centennial Sunday, July 4, 1976,
and the 75th Anniversary Celebration was held on September 17,
1978, with Dr. Earl Kelly, Executive Director-Treasurer of the
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board as guest speaker; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 1987, Andrea Fleming was recognized at
a statewide Acteens meeting for receiving the Mississippi
Citation, the highest individual achievement award presented by
the Mississippi Acteen organization, and on July 14, 1996, a
special day of services was held in honor of Dr. David Millican's
33 years of service to South McComb Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Michael Johnson was called as a pastor in August
1996, and Reverend Ted C. Bowlin of Monticello, MS, was called as
a pastor on October 11, 1998; and

WHEREAS, looking back over the last 100 years of ministry of
the church, it is evident that the Lord has guided South McComb
Baptist Church every step of the way, and as the church begins a
new time of service and outreach for the Lord, they are sure to
discover ministries and opportunities not yet comprehended, and
because of faithfulness of Him who has called them, they will
carry the standard as those who have gone before them; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Legislature of the State of
Mississippi to recognize and commend an outstanding church such as
South McComb Baptist Church, that has been a remarkable
inspiration to people throughout Mississippi and the world:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
THEREIN, That we commend and congratulate South McComb Baptist
Church membership upon a milestone, their 100 year anniversary,
and we wish them every success in all their future endeavors.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be furnished to South McComb Baptist Church and to members of the Capitol Press Corps.