

By: Representatives Smith (39th), Chism

To: Rules

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 106

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE  
2 DILIGENCE OF THE PASTORS AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE FIRST BAPTIST  
3 CHURCH OF COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, UPON THE OCCASION OF THE CHURCH'S  
4 175TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY AND EXTENDING WARMEST WISHES FOR CONTINUED  
5 PROSPERITY, SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND SUCCESS IN SPREADING THE GOSPEL  
6 OF JESUS CHRIST.

7 WHEREAS, First Baptist Church, Columbus, Mississippi,  
8 organized in 1832, marks a milestone in its history as it, in a  
9 year-long celebration, reflects upon its rich legacy of 175 years  
10 with homecoming weekend scheduled on Saturday, October 6 and  
11 Sunday, October 7, 2007; and

12 WHEREAS, while meeting in the Masonic Temple under the  
13 leadership of Dr. George Tucker, it purchased the property on 7th  
14 Street and 2nd Avenue North and began building the church on this  
15 site in 1838, with completion in 1840; and

16 WHEREAS, for the next 68 years, this sanctuary was a beacon  
17 in the city, having contributed both spiritually and culturally by  
18 promoting the love of God and community; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1908, being inadequate to meet the needs of the  
20 current membership, the building was razed and replaced with the  
21 present church. In 1960 and 1979, renovations were made to  
22 improve the facility; and

23 WHEREAS, in 2006, the congregation voted to purchase 80 acres  
24 of land north of the downtown location on which to build  
25 facilities adequate to meet the present-day needs; and

26 WHEREAS, in 2007, the congregation again voted in favor of  
27 beginning PHASE ONE, the approval of the architectural plans for  
28 the new campus on Bluecutt Road; and

29           WHEREAS, under the leadership of 30 spirit-filled pastors,  
30 First Baptist Church has continued to proclaim the Gospel of the  
31 Lord Jesus Christ throughout the community, the county, the state,  
32 the nation and the world. The list of First Baptist Church  
33 pastors reads like a roll call of Southern Baptist leaders:  
34 1844-1846 - William Cary Crane, President of Baylor University;  
35 1848-1849 - Issac Taylor Tichenor, Southern Baptist Theological  
36 Seminary, founder, President of Auburn University, Home Mission  
37 Board leader; 1858-1863 - Thomas Cox Teasdale, personal friend of  
38 Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis, Southern Baptist Convention  
39 Sunday School Board member, evangelist; 1879-1881 - Henry W.  
40 Battle, the pastor when the Southern Baptist Convention met at  
41 First Baptist Church, Columbus, Mississippi; 1912-1913 - J.B.  
42 Lawrence, author, head of Home Mission Board; 1917-1918 - T.J.  
43 Holcomb, Baptist Sunday School Board leader, Baptist Foundation  
44 executive; 1921-1947 - Jesse Dee Franks, organizer of Brotherhood,  
45 BSU and radio ministry locally and Baptist Seminary in Ruschelkon,  
46 Switzerland; 1947-1972 - Samuel R. Woodson, State Convention  
47 President, Southern Baptist Convention trustee, led FBC to its  
48 highest membership, started Fairview Church in East Columbus;  
49 1974-1986 - Joe McKeever, served on Foreign Mission Board Search  
50 Committee, cartoonist and author of several books, began  
51 television ministry, led the church to construct the "Miracle"  
52 building in 1981, raising \$256,401.00, on "Miracle Sunday,"  
53 presently serving as Director of Missions of Greater New Orleans  
54 Association; 1987-2002 - Bobby Douglas, served on Mississippi  
55 Baptist Convention Education Committee, Order of Business  
56 Committee and Committee on Nominations, established the weekly  
57 Hour of Prayer ministry, established a local Inter-Racial Ministry  
58 Fellowship, promoted the FBC ministry to the elderly, presently  
59 serving as Director of Missions of the Mid-Delta Association of  
60 Mississippi; 2003-present - Shawn Parker, a dynamic preacher,  
61 leading the church in the expansion of a 24-hour, seven-day prayer

62 ministry in the growth of membership and outreach ministries,  
63 also, leading the church in the purchase of land and in the  
64 planning of a new facility, served on the Adjunct Faculty of New  
65 Orleans Theological Seminary, on the Executive Committee of  
66 Louisiana Baptist Convention, also, of the Baptist Association of  
67 Greater New Orleans, presently serving on the Resolutions  
68 Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and on the  
69 Executive Committee of the Golden Triangle Baptist Association as  
70 the Lowndes County Cluster Leader; and

71 WHEREAS, the church's mission statement is based on Matthew  
72 22:37-39, "Loving God, Loving Each Other, Loving Our World"; and

73 WHEREAS, First Baptist Church which has a legacy of helping  
74 others, near and far, who are in need spiritually, emotionally,  
75 physically or financially continues to practice this legacy  
76 through the following activities: Love-in-Deed, ESL (English as a  
77 Second Language), prison ministeries, Operation Christmas Child,  
78 Angel Tree, Christmas Store, Christmas Festival, School Prayer  
79 Walks, International Friendship House, Baptist Student Union  
80 meals, Kids Growing in Christ Mission, retirement and nursing home  
81 meetings, homebound ministry and visitation, youth mission trips,  
82 as well as, Women on Mission, women's ministry, Acteen children's  
83 mission projects and offerings; and

84 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize  
85 such outstanding and contributory religious institutions as First  
86 Baptist Church which continues to be a vital part of the Columbus  
87 area:

88 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
89 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE  
90 CONCURRING THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate  
91 the diligence of the pastors and membership of First Baptist  
92 Church, Columbus, Mississippi, upon the occasion of the church's  
93 175th year anniversary and extend warmest wishes for continued

94 prosperity, spiritual growth and success in spreading the Gospel  
95 of Jesus Christ.

96 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
97 furnished to First Baptist Church, Columbus, Mississippi, and to  
98 the members of the Capitol Press Corps.