

By: Representative Eaton

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 78

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING HARMONY BAPTIST
2 CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY, CELEBRATING ITS
3 HISTORY OF SPIRITUAL EXCELLENCE.

4 WHEREAS, Harmony Baptist Church, in Mize, Mississippi, is the
5 oldest church in Smith County being founded in 1832, and will
6 celebrate its 175th anniversary on May 6, 2007; and

7 WHEREAS, located in the southern portion of Smith County, the
8 land on which Harmony Baptist Church is situated was part of the
9 Choctaw Indian Nation until the signing of the Treaty of Dancing
10 Rabbit Creek in 1830, negotiated by representatives of President
11 Andrew Jackson; and

12 WHEREAS, Harmony Baptist Church along with several other
13 churches in Smith County endured the turmoil of the Civil War, at
14 a time when there was a shortage of preachers of the Gospel in the
15 area due largely in part to the pastors becoming military
16 chaplains; and

17 WHEREAS, having always been noted for its giving to those in
18 need, Harmony Baptist's early records indicate a December 1918
19 offering of \$7.75 being given to the Baptist Orphanage, which is
20 now known as the Baptist Children's Village; and

21 WHEREAS, with its rich history passed down through generation
22 after generation of congregations Harmony Baptist, as the oldest
23 church in Smith County, continues to serve as refuge for the
24 weary, a pillar of strength and a safe haven for the spiritually
25 downtrodden; and

26 WHEREAS, affiliated with the Smith County Baptist Church
27 Association, the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Southern

28 Baptist Convention, Harmony Baptist Church built its present
29 building and sanctuary in 1927, and paid it off in 1928, one year
30 after its completion; and

31 WHEREAS, Harmony Baptist Church has been a beacon in the
32 community, having contributed both spiritually and culturally to
33 its community by promoting the love of God, self and education;
34 and

35 WHEREAS, with excitement, humility and awe, Harmony Baptist
36 Church looks back upon its past achievements, and with sincere
37 thankfulness acknowledges God's grace and love, which has carried
38 the church triumphantly throughout its 175-year legacy; and

39 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
40 recognize outstanding and contributory religious institutions such
41 as Harmony Baptist Church, which continues to be a vital part of
42 Smith County and the Mize Community:

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
44 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
45 commend and congratulate the diligence of the pastors and members
46 of Harmony Baptist Church upon the occasion of the church's 175th
47 year anniversary and extend warmest wishes for continued
48 prosperity, spiritual growth and success.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
50 furnished to Harmony Baptist Church and to the members of the
51 Capitol Press Corps.