

By: Senator(s) Butler

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 704

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE "100 YEARS OF  
2 MINISTRY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION" OF TYLERTOWN FIRST BAPTIST  
3 CHURCH.

4 WHEREAS, Tylertown First Baptist Church was established on  
5 May 10, 1910. Through its ministry, this leading church in South  
6 Central Mississippi has empowered thousands of families and other  
7 individuals at the local, state, national and international  
8 levels. Tylertown First Baptist Church is celebrating its "100  
9 Years of Ministry Anniversary Celebration" on May 5-15, 2010; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1910, the late George Gutter and his wife,  
11 Frankey Brumfield-Gutter, along with their two children, Georgia  
12 and Mamie, came to Tylertown, Mississippi. Gutter's vision for a  
13 place of worship led him to an old cattle shed, where he removed  
14 the walls which provided enough material to build 40 to 50 seats.  
15 Friends who stood with him donated one table, one chair and some  
16 lamps. Sawdust was used for flooring and kerosene lamps were  
17 mounted on posts as a source for lighting; and

18 WHEREAS, George Gutter started the ministry with those in  
19 support of the vision. Setting the foundation for a thriving  
20 church, Reverend Jesse Dillon served as Tylertown First Baptist  
21 Church's first Pastor, and M.C. Hall-Dean was elected the church's  
22 first Sunday School Superintendent; and

23 WHEREAS, the church was named "Mount Wade Missionary Baptist  
24 Church." The founder, George Gutter, became the first Deacon.  
25 Meeting days were held monthly, first Saturdays and Sundays.  
26 Reverend G.W. Holden became Pastor after the death of Reverend  
27 Jesse Dillon. Henry Buckles and Robert Varnado were ordained as



28 Deacons and the following members were added: M.C. Hall-Dean;  
29 George Pinn, Sr.; George Pinn, Jr.; Fred Raiford; Rankin Varnado;  
30 Lula Mae Allen; Pearl B. Williams; and Letha Buckles; and

31 WHEREAS, in 1913, the ministry was moved to its present site  
32 located at 1506 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and renamed  
33 Tylertown First Baptist Church; and

34 WHEREAS, Tylertown First Baptist Church has had five Pastors  
35 over its 100-year blessed history and has long provided  
36 outstanding ministries, and continues to do so through its current  
37 Senior Pastor, Bishop Walter J. Smith, its Pastors Clayton Bullock  
38 and Sherman Smith, and Board of Elders Patrick Lubanga and Alice  
39 Richmond. Bishop Walter J. Smith has been serving as Senior  
40 Pastor since January 1, 1982; and

41 WHEREAS, in 1995, Pastor Walter J. Smith, a native of  
42 Tylertown, extended the ministry to International Mission. He  
43 took the first mission trip to Africa preaching the gospel of  
44 Jesus Christ to teachers, pastors, families and individuals to  
45 help them meet their spiritual needs, while helping them to  
46 increase their faith and rebuild their lives through quality  
47 training. Under the leadership of Bishop Smith, the ministry is  
48 being preached globally in areas such as Denmark, Ghana, India,  
49 Kenya, Malaysia, Philippines, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom  
50 (UK) and Zanzibar; and

51 WHEREAS, in 2005, Walter J. Smith was ordained Bishop under  
52 the Seal of Bishop Mark J. Chironna, Chief Celebrant and Presiding  
53 Bishop at the Master's Touch International Church in Orlando,  
54 Florida; and

55 WHEREAS, Bishop Smith is a visionary to encourage all people  
56 to achieve their God-given potential. He has developed numerous  
57 projects and organizations in the area in an effort to revitalize  
58 the City of Tylertown. Under his leadership, the ministry has  
59 become God's catalyst for change in the region to combat poverty.



60 He is married to Shirley Smith, a native of Brookhaven,  
61 Mississippi. They are the parents of John and Gweneka; and

62 WHEREAS, it is with pride that we join the citizens of  
63 Tylertown in the Centennial Celebration of this dynamic ministry,  
64 which will include representatives of the Baptist denomination in  
65 the United States, the United Kingdom and Ghana, Africa:

66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
67 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
68 we hereby recognize the "100 Years of Ministry Anniversary  
69 Celebration" of Tylertown Baptist Church under the dynamic  
70 leadership of Bishop Walter J. Smith, and extend our best wishes  
71 to this congregation and community on this auspicious occasion.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
73 Bishop Walter Smith and the congregation of Tylertown First  
74 Baptist Church and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

