

By: Representatives Huddleston (30th),
Clarke, Thomas

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 41

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING HOLLY GROVE
2 MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS CENTENNIAL
3 ANNIVERSARY, ACKNOWLEDGING THE CELEBRATION OF 100 YEARS OF DEVOUT
4 FAITH AND SPIRITUAL EXCELLENCE.

5 WHEREAS, Holly Grove Missionary Baptist Church, organized in
6 1915 in Drew, Mississippi, and which built its first edifice for
7 assembled worship on its present site on July 17, 1917, celebrated
8 the 100th anniversary of its official establishment in July 2017;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the church began worshipping in their new sanctuary
11 under the leadership of Reverend W.S. Stevenson and the first
12 board of trustee members and deaconess ministry consisting of:
13 Brother I. Wilkinson, Brother H.Y. Betts, Brother Grant Clark,
14 Brother Albert Brown, Sister Margret Wilkinson, Sister Hattie
15 Williams Cockrell and Sister Lugene Brown; and

16 WHEREAS, over the course of its centennial history, Holly
17 Grove has been led by several capable and dynamic pastors who each
18 contributed to the spiritual, numerical and physical growth of the
19 church and in the fulfillment of the Great Commission of spreading



20 the gospel of Jesus Christ, including: Reverend A.L. Hill (early
21 1930s-1943); Reverend T.W. Richardson (1943-1969), under whose
22 leadership a new sanctuary was constructed; Reverend W.L. Smith,
23 Jr., who would be named Pastor Emeritus (1969-1992); Reverend C.J.
24 Nelson (interim pastor, 1992-1993); Reverend Adoris Turner
25 (1994-1997); Reverend Jesse Gresham (interim pastor, 1997-1998)
26 with the assistance of Pastor Martha Shoulders; Reverend Scotty
27 Williams (1998); Reverend Percy Grant (1999); Reverend Jesse
28 Gresham (2000-2014); Reverend Bobby Love (interim pastor
29 2014-2015); and Reverend William "Ray" Blackmon (2015-present);
30 and

31 WHEREAS, even in the midst of tumultuous times, like the
32 Great Depression and other economic and natural disasters that
33 threatened the fate of Holly Grove, the members, with an
34 unshakeable faith, have trusted in God to make a way, relied upon
35 the visionary leadership of their pastors, and labored as diligent
36 workers in the vineyard to replant, rebuild and continue to walk
37 in the path of spiritual righteousness; and

38 WHEREAS, having maintained the resolve to worship and serve
39 God by being a blessing and of service to others, Holly Grove has
40 experienced the fullness of God's joy as their footprint in the
41 Community of Drew, as well as the entirety of Sunflower County has
42 flourished under the covering of the prayer of Jabez, as its
43 continued existence has been blessed indeed and its territory
44 enlarged; and



45 WHEREAS, Holly Grove Missionary Baptist Church continues its
46 journey of reaching souls for the Lord Jesus Christ as it has
47 added a fellowship hall, established a Men's Ministry, an active
48 Youth Department, and two of its members being called to the
49 ministry through the ordained leadership of Reverend William "Ray"
50 Blackmon, whose devout integrity continues to be a beacon of light
51 and inspiration in times of social, moral and spiritual decline,
52 as well as, Reverend Bobby Love, who serves as Director of
53 Christian Education, and Reverend Robert Hunter, who serves as
54 Youth Minister; and

55 WHEREAS, with excitement, humility and awe, Holly Grove
56 Missionary Baptist Church looks back on its past achievements, and
57 with sincere thankfulness acknowledges God's grace and love, which
58 have brought them through the years and have given them triumphant
59 victory; and

60 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
61 recognize and commend outstanding and contributory religious
62 institutions such as Holly Grove Missionary Baptist Church, which
63 continues to be a cornerstone of Sunflower County and the Drew
64 community as it strives continuously to promote the spread and
65 growth of the Christian faith:

66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
67 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
68 commend and congratulate the diligence of the pastors and members
69 of Holly Grove Missionary Baptist Church on the occasion of the



70 church's 100th year anniversary and extend warmest wishes for
71 continued prosperity, spiritual growth and success.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
73 furnished to Holly Grove Missionary Baptist Church and to the
74 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

