

By: Representative Paden

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 100

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE DILIGENCE,
2 SERVICE AND WIDE INFLUENCE OF SWAN LAKE MISSIONARY BAPTIST
3 ASSOCIATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE ASSOCIATION'S HISTORIC
4 SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY.

5 WHEREAS, Swan Lake Missionary Baptist Association celebrates
6 the splendid occasion of its sesquicentennial anniversary,
7 acknowledging 150 years of spiritual excellence and devotion; and

8 WHEREAS, Swan Lake Missionary Baptist Association was
9 organized in 1870 sometime after the Emancipation Proclamation of
10 1863 was signed on January 1 by President Abraham Lincoln but not
11 widely known to have occurred until 1865 among many others and
12 those who were enslaved in the southern states during the time of
13 the American Civil War; and

14 WHEREAS, many African-American churches organized in the
15 South during war time and the Jim Crow era when African Americans
16 were not allowed to assemble and to read; however, some slave
17 owners and abolitionists who wanted slavery banned allowed their
18 slaves to worship with them in their own churches, but as times



19 changed and slaves were freed, many slaves started their own
20 churches; and

21 WHEREAS, as time passed and the First Baptist Association
22 hosted The General Missionary Convention of the State of
23 Mississippi, which was organized in Port Gibson, Mississippi, on
24 July 12, 1869, and later known as the Baptist Missionary
25 Convention after July 22, 1890, those churches followed the lead
26 and in turn organized missionary Baptist associations in many
27 counties, including Coahoma County; and

28 WHEREAS, Swan Lake Missionary Baptist Association was one of
29 those associations that was born out of the need for church
30 missionaries, church organizational structure, farming to help aid
31 the needy, and education, and Saint James Missionary Baptist
32 Church, organized in 1868, was one such church among other
33 churches in the county that aided in organizing the Swan Lake
34 Missionary Baptist Association; and

35 WHEREAS, taking the lead from the first organized association
36 in seeing a need to educate teachers to teach others to read, Swan
37 Lake Missionary Baptist Association founded the Swan Lake Normal
38 School for African Americans in 1914, and with missionary and
39 financial support from its churches, Swan Lake has continued to
40 aid in the education of students from its eight member churches by
41 providing school supplies and awarding scholarships twice a year
42 during its annual and semi-annual conventions; and



43 WHEREAS, the officers of Swan Lake Missionary Baptist
44 Association are Reverend Bennie L. Brown, President, Reverend
45 Terry O. Cousin, Vice President, Reverend Donald L. Green,
46 Treasurer, and Mrs. Rose M. Lockett, Secretary, and the trustee
47 board members are Mr. Jimmy Wilkins, Chairman, Reverend British
48 Conley, Reverend Bernard Handy, Mr. Michael Houston, Reverend
49 Emanuel Lackey, Reverend Owen Robinson, Mr. Elbert Taylor,
50 Reverend Elvin T. Todd and Reverend H.P. Washington; and

51 WHEREAS, while the community and the landscape have
52 transformed in the past 150 years, Swan Lake Missionary Baptist
53 Association has maintained an urgent devotion to keep the Great
54 Commandment, fulfill the Great Commission and practice the Golden
55 Rule; and

56 WHEREAS, Swan Lake Missionary Baptist Association has been a
57 valued and trusted institution in Coahoma County, Mississippi,
58 since its inception 150 years ago, withstanding the ever-changing
59 dynamics surrounding it by being firmly rooted and grounded in its
60 biblical principles, and it has continued in the longstanding
61 tradition of empowering countless families and others through the
62 teachings of the fulfillment of the gospel; and

63 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
64 recognize and commend outstanding and contributory religious
65 institutions such as Swan Lake Missionary Baptist Association,
66 which remains a cornerstone of Coahoma County, Mississippi, as it



67 strives continuously to promote the spread and growth of the
68 Christian faith:

69 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
70 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
71 commend and congratulate the diligence, service and wide influence
72 of Swan Lake Missionary Baptist Association on the occasion of the
73 association's historic sesquicentennial anniversary and extend
74 warmest wishes for continued prosperity, spiritual growth and
75 success.

76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
77 furnished to the officers and trustees of Swan Lake Missionary
78 Baptist Association and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

