

By: Senator(s) Chism, Barnett, Hill, Thomas, Whaley To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

1 A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL (150TH)
2 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE OLD OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH IN
3 MYRTLE, MISSISSIPPI, AND EXTENDING THE BEST WISHES OF THE SENATE
4 TO THIS CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION.

5 WHEREAS, we join the Christian congregation of Old Oak Grove
6 Baptist Church in Myrtle, Mississippi, in their Sesquicentennial
7 (150th) Anniversary Celebration, an important event in the history
8 of this church and community; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1873, the residents of the community, south of
10 the present-day Town of Myrtle, Mississippi, came together to
11 organize a church to be called Oak Grove Baptist Church. The
12 church originally met periodically on Saturday to worship and take
13 care of the church business; and

14 WHEREAS, the first elected pastor of the church was Ike Gray,
15 followed by Ike Smith. During this time, two acres of land were
16 deeded to the church and school. Between 1888 and 1905, R.A.
17 Cooper, Charles Huchison and J.M. Gray served the church as
18 pastors; and



19 WHEREAS, the first church building was erected in 1905, and
20 the first church records were prepared and entered as record.
21 That building still currently serves as the sanctuary; however,
22 some remodeling has occurred: lamps were added in 1911; air
23 conditioning was added in 1969; carpet and new pews were added in
24 1971; and the entrance was remodeled along with the addition of a
25 porch in 1983; and

26 WHEREAS, in the late 1800s or early 1900s, some members were
27 forced to travel on treacherous terrain in the winter months,
28 therefore the church split amicably into Old Oak Grove Baptist
29 Church and New Oak Grove Baptist Church. Old Oak Grove remained
30 on the original site and New Oak Grove organized and settled on
31 the other side of the bottom. New Oak Grove is presently known as
32 Faith Baptist Church. The church then progressed from meeting one
33 Sunday a month to meeting every Sunday; and

34 WHEREAS, Old Oak Grove Baptist Church has been served by 29
35 pastors most of which served from one to three years; however,
36 there were some who served longer terms: Frank Cox (19 years);
37 Tommy C. Peters (18-1/2 years); T.C. Hodges (12 years) and the
38 current pastor is presently serving his 15th year. Sixteen
39 deacons have helped these pastors lead this church, which has
40 truly been blessed during its existence; and

41 WHEREAS, Old Oak Grove Baptist Church continues to serve its
42 members and community through the inception of their Sunday
43 School, mission activities, educational space, parsonage,



44 fellowship hall, baptistry and extending their adjoining cemetery;
45 and

46 WHEREAS, we acknowledge and recognize the Christian and civic
47 contributions of this church to the citizens of the community and
48 give thanks for its legacy to the State of Mississippi:

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
50 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commemorate the Sesquicentennial
51 (150th) Anniversary Celebration of the Old Oak Grove Baptist
52 Church in Myrtle, Mississippi, and extend the best wishes of the
53 Senate to this Christian congregation on this auspicious occasion.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
55 Pastor Bobby Butler for the congregation and elders of the church,
56 be forwarded to the Board of Aldermen of Myrtle, Mississippi, and
57 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

