

By: Senator(s) England, Seymour

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 36

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND GIVING THANKS TO MOSS POINT  
 2 PASTOR DERRICK TAPPER, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH (SBC), AND MOSS POINT  
 3 PASTOR KEVIN HENRY, FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, AND THEIR  
 4 RESPECTIVE CONGREGATIONS, WHO UNITED AND HELD SERVICES IN A COMMON  
 5 SANCTURY FOLLOWING THE DEVASTATING TORNADO DAMAGE ON JUNE 19,  
 6 2023, FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY.

7 WHEREAS, we join the citizens of Moss Point, Mississippi, in  
 8 recognizing Pastor Derrick Tapper and Pastor Kevin Henry for their  
 9 commitment to community service and for their demonstration of  
 10 Christian faith and fellowship; and

11 WHEREAS, the destruction of the tornado that struck Moss  
 12 Point, Mississippi, on June 19, 2023, united the two churches when  
 13 First Baptist Church (SBC) opened its doors to First Missionary  
 14 Baptist Church after its building was severely damaged by the  
 15 storm; and

16 WHEREAS, after the tornado ripped through Moss Point  
 17 destroying one of its oldest, predominately black churches,  
 18 members of the church aren't letting the disaster stop them from  
 19 their regularly scheduled worship. First Missionary Baptist  
 20 Church sits on Main Street in Moss Point, which is where the



21 majority of the damage was. About a mile away, churchgoers went  
22 to Refuge Church Center on Church Street to hold the church's  
23 first service after the tornado; and

24 WHEREAS, "It's going to take a whole lot more than a storm  
25 and an EF-2 tornado to keep us from coming together to worship  
26 God," said Senior Pastor Kevin Henry. "So, I thought it was  
27 extremely important that we get together as quickly as possible,  
28 pray for one or another, pray with each other, and together we can  
29 get through this"; and

30 WHEREAS, the church recently turned 149 years old, and seeing  
31 the history of the church wiped away with debris, shattered  
32 windows, and a destroyed roof was heartbreaking for Pastor Henry  
33 to see. "The damage looked devastating," said Pastor Henry. "My  
34 heart buckles when I look at it, but then my heart rejoices in  
35 gratefulness because no one was there during the time that the  
36 tornado hit"; and

37 WHEREAS, both churches served as an example to the City of  
38 Moss Point and others by coming together to uplift each other  
39 while spreading the Gospel of Christ; and

40 WHEREAS, both pastors, leading entirely different  
41 congregations with entirely different services, maintained the  
42 common messages of Faith, Hope and Love; and

43 WHEREAS, these two Christian congregations are wonderful  
44 examples for community commitment and resiliency, and we commend



45 their record of achievement, leadership and a legacy of charitable  
46 spirit to all in Mississippi:

47         NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
48 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and give thanks to Moss  
49 Point Pastor Derrick Tapper of First Baptist Church (SBC), and  
50 Moss Point Pastor Kevin Henry of First Missionary Baptist Church,  
51 and to their respective congregations, for uniting and holding  
52 services in a common sanctuary following the devastating tornado  
53 damage on June 19, 2023, and for their commitment to the  
54 community, and to extend our prayers for rebuilding.

55         BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
56 Pastor Derrick Tapper and Pastor Kevin Henry, and to the  
57 congregations of First Baptist Church (SBC) and First Missionary  
58 Baptist Church in Moss Point, Mississippi, forwarded to the Mayor  
59 and City Council of Moss Point, Mississippi, and be made available  
60 to the Capitol Press Corps.

