

House Resolution No. 2564

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives always welcome the opportunity to acknowledge milestone events in the histories of Show-Me State religious institutions which have been dedicated to meeting the spiritual needs of local communities and neighborhoods; and

Whereas, First Baptist Church of Louisiana, Missouri, has attained a rare, impressive achievement with the arrival of the One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of its founding; and

Whereas, organized in a cooper's shop where the town's present-day post office stands, First Baptist Church was established on March 26, 1853; and

Whereas, First Baptist Church held its first worship services in Woods Schoolhouse on the southwest corner of Seventh and Tennessee streets with thirty-six charter members in attendance; and

Whereas, today First Baptist Church meets in its historic building which was built for the princely sum of \$14,500 and dedicated on November 15, 1891; and

Whereas, anniversary commemorations on March 30, 2003, included a special adult Sunday school meeting in which Dr. Tom Sneed, pastor from May 1969 to August 1976, taught the lesson; a worship service in which Secretary of State Matt Blunt delivered the sermon, former choir director Ron Wilson and former associate pastor Don Sheumaker sang and gave testimonials, longtime church members spoke, a children's choir performed, and a historical video was shown; a group photograph was taken at the northwest corner of the building; and lunch was accompanied by additional testimonials from members and former staffers; and

Whereas, current church leadership at this auspicious time include the pastor, Dr. Earl Wood; an associate pastor, the Reverend Mike Bronson; youth directors, Ken and Danita Martin; and a director of Hispanic ministries, the Reverend Luis Mendoza:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the splendid history and unparalleled service associated with First Baptist Church of Louisiana, Missouri, and to convey to its pastors, staff, and members this legislative body's heartiest congratulations and best wishes as they commemorate the One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of their esteemed church; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of the Sesquicentennial celebration at First Baptist Church in Louisiana, Missouri.

Offered by _____
 Representative Terry L. Witte
 District No. 10

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 2564, adopted May 6, 2003.

 Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker