

**Whereas**, it is with tremendous respect and admiration that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause to acknowledge momentous events in the histories of Show-Me State religious institutions which are dedicated to meeting the spiritual needs of citizens in local communities and neighborhoods; and

**Whereas**, First Baptist Church of Elsberry enjoys a stellar, ongoing legacy which has roots extending to its founding on October 27, 1883, when six men and six women met to organize what was to be known as Elsberry Baptist Church; and

**Whereas**, in 1892 land was purchased at Commerce and Fifth Streets, and the church erected a white frame three-room building with a bell tower to serve as a house of worship; and

**Whereas**, in 1940 the church attained two milestones by supporting a full-time pastor and by beginning a major construction project which involved remodeling the building into a two-story brick veneer structure with a full basement, four classrooms, a pastor's study, an office, and a sanctuary with stained glass windows, an organ, and chimes; and

**Whereas**, other alterations to the physical structure of First Baptist Church include the later purchase of property on the south side for use as a large parking lot, the construction of an educational building in 1971, and the construction of a west side ramp leading from the parking area to the main building; and

**Whereas**, First Baptist Church has utilized missions as a dominant theme in its diverse ministries through its association since the early 1920s with the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program; and

**Whereas**, First Baptist Church during its one hundred twenty year history has been led by twenty-nine pastors and two interim pastors; and

**Whereas**, the one hundred ninety resident members and the current pastor, Gary Berry, observed the One Hundred Twentieth Anniversary of their church on October 19, 2003:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the arrival of the One Hundred Twentieth Anniversary of the founding of First Baptist Church of Elsberry and to convey to all of those involved this legislative body's best wishes for continued spiritual achievement; 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 First Baptist Church of Elsberry, 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. 4859, adopted December 17, 2003.

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 Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker