

## House Resolution No. 783

**Whereas**, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives take tremendous pleasure in pausing from their normal legislative actions in order to express a warm Show-Me State welcome to esteemed visitors from throughout the United States and around the globe; and

**Whereas**, the African Methodist Episcopal Church will hold its Forty-eighth Quadrennial General Convention from July 4 to July 11, 2008, at the America's Center in Saint Louis; and

**Whereas**, hosted by the members and leadership of the Fifth Episcopal District, the African Methodist Episcopal Church General Convention is expected to attract upwards of 20,000 participants from the United States, India, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa; and

**Whereas**, the African Methodist Episcopal Church traces its roots to 1787 when a group of Philadelphia slaves and former slaves withdrew from Saint George's Methodist Episcopal Church and formed Bethel African Methodist Church, now fondly referred to as "Mother Bethel"; and

**Whereas**, in 1799 Richard Allen was ordained as the minister of the church by Bishop Francis Asbury of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in 1816 Allen was consecrated as Bishop of the newly organized African Methodist Episcopal Church; and

**Whereas**, the African Methodist Episcopal Church uses as its official seal an open, illuminated Bible bearing a cross and a dove and surrounded by the inscription "God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, Man Our Brother"; and

**Whereas**, originally found only in northern states, the African Methodist Episcopal Church rapidly expanded into southern states after the Civil War; and

**Whereas**, the quadrennial General Convention is the vehicle used by clergy and lay delegates of the African Methodist Episcopal Church to establish the church's direction and plans for the next four years or longer:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the history, goals, and accomplishments associated with the African Methodist Episcopal Church and to convey to all of those involved this legislative body's most heartfelt welcome to the state of Missouri for their Forty-eighth Quadrennial General Conference; 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 African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Robin Wright Jones  
District No. 63

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session,  
do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House  
Resolution No. 783, adopted February 25, 2008.

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Rod Jetton, Speaker