**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND SAINT PAUL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF WINNSBORO FOR ALMOST A CENTURY AND A HALF OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND TO EXTEND WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF THE CHURCH’S HISTORIC ONE HUNDRED FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

Whereas, having been founded in 1873, Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church of Winnsboro will celebrate its historic one hundred fortieth anniversary in late November 2013; and

Whereas, Saint Paul is considered to be the first organized Baptist church for blacks in Winnsboro. In a little schoolhouse standing in Presbyterian Woods, founders Simon McIntosh, Henry Golden, Lily Yarborough, Frances Kelly, Lizzie Hart, and others gathered to launch the fledgling congregation; and

Whereas, shortly thereafter, the small band of members relocated to a little house owned by Henry Golden and installed their first pastor, the Reverend Daniel Golden. Known throughout the area as the “Baptist War Horse,” Reverend Golden faithfully pursued his calling under the motto “One Lord, One Faith, and One Baptism,” serving God with Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church for eighteen years. The first church structure was erected during his pastorate in 1876 on Cemetery Street; and

Whereas, during the Reverend J.C. Jackson’s ministry as Saint Paul’s pastor, the present “church house” was built in 1893. The wooden frame structure was considered the largest church facility for blacks in Winnsboro at that time and boasted a quality bell imported by boat from England; and

Whereas, under the leadership of a number of godly pastors, the church continued to make significant improvements over the years. During the Reverend C.L. McMillian’s pastorate, twenty years of renovation and building began, the highlight of which was the complete upgrading and modernization of the sanctuary. As a reminder of the church’s honored past, the original pews, now augmented by cushioned seats and back rests, were retained. Later, the church constructed its Christian Fellowship Center, purchased a twenty‑five passenger bus, and completed major upgrades to the sanctuary’s interior under the leadership of its present pastor, the Reverend Terry Corbin; and

Whereas, to the local citizenry, Saint Paul long has been known for its courageous stance on issues facing the church and community, as during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s; and

Whereas, with the theme “Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Present, and Moving Toward the Future” inspiring all events, on November 22, 2013, in celebration of its one hundred fortieth anniversary, Saint Paul will begin its anniversary homecoming with a banquet featuring the Claflin University Gospel Choir. Family Fun Day will follow on November 23, and activities will culminate with Sunday service on November 24; and

Whereas, standing on the faith and strength of its pastors and members, Saint Paul’s present congregation “presses toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14), continuing to proclaim the Word of God; and

Whereas, Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church has been a beacon of light in Winnsboro for one hundred forty years, and, God willing, will continue its godly heritage in many more years of worship and service. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church of Winnsboro, by this resolution, be commended for almost a century and a half of service to the community and extended warmest congratulations on the occasion of the church’s historic one hundred fortieth anniversary.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Pastor Terry Corbin for Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church.

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