

By Representative Kilmer

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution congratulating the First Baptist
3 Church of Campbellton on the occasion of its
4 175th anniversary.

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6 WHEREAS, three months after John Quincy Adams had begun
7 his presidency and 20 years before Florida would attain
8 statehood, First Baptist Church of Campbellton was established
9 on March 12, 1825, as Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church,
10 today the oldest Baptist church in the state, and

11 WHEREAS, holding their first service on March 13, the
12 19 charter members immediately called the Reverend E. W.
13 Callaway to serve as pastor of the eager congregation, and

14 WHEREAS, as early as 1826, a search was begun for a
15 site on which to locate a meetinghouse, but it was not until
16 1852 that 10 acres of land were purchased for the sum of \$50,
17 with a provision being made for a public school to be erected
18 on the property, and

19 WHEREAS, the first meetinghouse was made of logs and
20 the congregation was segregated by gender, with women on one
21 side and men on the other, but the fellowship was diverse,
22 comprised of landowners, slaves, and the poor, and

23 WHEREAS, the rich history of the church includes many
24 notable "firsts" which exemplify its zeal for outreach, as
25 evidenced by the November 12, 1825, establishment of its first
26 mission on the bluff of the Apalachicola River at
27 Chattahoochee; formation of the first female missionary
28 society in Florida in 1848; sponsorship in 1865 of the First
29 Graceville Mission, a fellowship which continues today as
30 Damascus Baptist Church; and, a milestone in the life of the

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1 church, the change from monthly services to full-time services
2 in 1953, and

3 WHEREAS, on March 12, 2000, First Baptist Church of
4 Campbellton celebrated the 175th anniversary of its existence,
5 NOW, THEREFORE,

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7 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
8 Florida:

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10 That the House of Representatives pauses in its
11 deliberations to congratulate the members of the oldest
12 Baptist Church in Florida, the First Baptist Church of
13 Campbellton, on the occasion of its 175th anniversary and to
14 express its sincere appreciation for the continued commitment
15 of the congregation to a ministry initiated in 1825 by 19
16 stalwart members of the community.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution
18 be presented to the Reverend Luther Pumphrey as a tangible
19 token of the sentiments expressed herein.

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