



HR1259

LRB100 23990 MST 43080 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the First Baptist Church  
4 of Orion on the occasion of its 175th anniversary and its  
5 tradition of faithful ministry to the local community; and

6           WHEREAS, The church, originally known as the Mount Pleasant  
7 Baptist Church, was founded in 1843 in the home of Nathan W.  
8 Washburn as a result of the missionary work of the Reverend  
9 Thomas Powell; and

10           WHEREAS, The church faced many difficulties in its early  
11 years and nearly disbanded in the late 1850s when most of the  
12 original members moved away; and

13           WHEREAS, The remaining members committed that "as long as  
14 two were present", there would always be meetings; and

15           WHEREAS, This faithfulness sustained the church; in 1866,  
16 its members built the first official church building in Orion,  
17 debt free; and

18           WHEREAS, Equipped with a new building, the congregation  
19 began to expand, creating a Union Sunday School and purchasing  
20 a parsonage for \$1,100 in 1881; and

1           WHEREAS, In 1892, in order to serve members of the  
2 congregation who lived many miles from Orion, the church  
3 established a new branch in Warner, which lasted until 1921;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, The church continued to grow and thrive, and in  
6 the summer of 1897, a new and expanded building was built and  
7 rededicated in October of that year; and

8           WHEREAS, During the First World War, the congregation sent  
9 weekly letters to the young men and boys of the church who  
10 served in the conflict; and

11           WHEREAS, In 1918, under the supervision of the Shining  
12 Lights Society, a new pipe organ was installed in the church,  
13 an instrument that has provided 100 years of music and worship  
14 for the congregation; and

15           WHEREAS, In 1920, the church adopted a new constitution,  
16 formally changing its name from the Mount Pleasant Baptist  
17 Church to the First Baptist Church of Orion; and

18           WHEREAS, During the Second World War, 26 young men and two  
19 young women of the church served in the armed forces; and

1           WHEREAS, In 1943, renovations and upgrades were  
2 continually made to the church; the congregation celebrated its  
3 100th anniversary by staging a pageant, performed by  
4 descendants of the first settlers, that depicted the original  
5 members of the church and recounted the founding of the church;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, In 1962, the church was cited as the Town and  
8 Country Church of the Year at the Illinois Baptist State  
9 Convention; and

10           WHEREAS, Throughout the rest of the 20th Century and into  
11 the 21st Century, the First Baptist Church of Orion, a member  
12 of the Southern Baptist Convention, has continued to be a  
13 pillar of the community; therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
15 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
16 congratulate the First Baptist Church of Orion on its 175th  
17 anniversary, and we wish it 175 more years of continued  
18 faithfulness and dedication to the surrounding community; and  
19 be it further

20           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
21 presented to the Reverend Jerry Higdon and the congregation of  
22 the First Baptist Church of Orion.