



HR1350

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate the members of
4 Shiloh Baptist Church on the occasion of the 175th anniversary
5 of the church's founding; and

6 WHEREAS, At a time when most of the surrounding country was
7 forest and the roads were mere cart tracks, a small band of
8 people met just south of Bridgeport in order to form the first
9 Baptist church in Lawrence County on December 9, 1839; these
10 individuals formed the church in order to meet the needs they
11 had for fellowship and to meet God's call to spread the Gospel
12 of Jesus Christ; and

13 WHEREAS, The council, which was requested by the brethren
14 living in Lawrence County, convened at Springhill Meeting House
15 to appoint James Highsmith as moderator pro-tempore and William
16 T. Young as clerk pro-tempore to take into consideration the
17 expediency of granting their request to be constituted into a
18 regular Baptist church; and

19 WHEREAS, The 11 founding members included J.S. Black and
20 his wife, Mary Ann Black; William Black and his wife, Mary
21 Black; Samuel F. Black and his wife, Harriet Black; Richard
22 Shipley and his wife, Sarah Shipley; Daniel Black and his wife,

1 Elizabeth Black; and Mrs. Mary Black, who were all baptized by
2 Elder G.W. Riley on December 8, 1839; and

3 WHEREAS, The council called for the Articles of Faith,
4 which was presented by the hand of J.S. Black, who was
5 appointed by the brethren and sisters to act on behalf of the
6 church; being satisfied with their Articles, the council
7 unanimously agreed to constitute them into a regular Baptist
8 church, which was to be known as the First Regular Baptist
9 Church of Jesus Christ in Township 3 North, Range 12 West; and

10 WHEREAS, The church organized their first meeting by
11 choosing Elder G.W. Riley as moderator and J.S. Black as clerk
12 pro-tempore; and

13 WHEREAS, On August 9, 1840, a meeting was held to rename
14 the church as Shiloh Baptist Church, meaning Messiah, denoting
15 Him to be the only procurer to their happiness; and

16 WHEREAS, In January of 1863, the congregation approved a
17 new meeting house, which would stand for 77 years until it was
18 tragically destroyed by a fire in 1940; and

19 WHEREAS, In September of 1940, Shiloh Baptist Church began
20 construction on a new building to serve as the church
21 auditorium, along with a basement to hold Sunday school

1 classrooms, which today serves as the church's youth
2 department; and

3 WHEREAS, As the congregation continued to grow in size, the
4 construction of a new auditorium began in 1979; a dedication
5 was held on August 30, 1981 with Pastor George Moore as the
6 guest speaker; and

7 WHEREAS, On October 8, 2008, Shiloh Baptist Church approved
8 the church's new mission statement of "Glorifying God, Loving
9 People; Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known"; and

10 WHEREAS, The Shiloh Baptist Church's 175th anniversary
11 makes it one of the 100 oldest churches of any denomination in
12 the State of Illinois and one of the 6 oldest Baptist churches
13 in the State of Illinois; and

14 WHEREAS, On December 14, 2014, Shiloh Baptist Church will
15 celebrate the 175th anniversary of its founding with special
16 guests, music, displays, photos, and a luncheon at noon,
17 followed by a reception; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
19 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we congratulate the members of Shiloh Baptist Church on the
21 175th anniversary of the church's founding and honor the

1 church's commitment to be a place and people of help and
2 ministry to others; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to Shiloh Baptist Church as an expression of our
5 esteem and respect.