



HR1291

LRB099 21194 MST 49115 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the Second Baptist Church
4 in Elgin on the occasion of its 150th anniversary; and

5 WHEREAS, During the Civil War, on October 15, 1862, Rev.
6 Benjamin Thomas of the First Baptist Church brought to Elgin
7 about 125 escaped slaves, mostly women and children, from
8 plantations in Franklin County, Alabama; they fled behind the
9 lines of the Union Army; this group of refugees, joined later
10 by husbands and fathers, established the African-American
11 community of Elgin and formed the nucleus of Second Baptist
12 Church; and

13 WHEREAS, Worship first took the form of camp meetings at
14 Colby's Grove; informal services of prayers and songs took
15 place at the home of Arthur Newsome; Rev. Adoniram J. Joslyn
16 and Harriett Cheney of First Baptist Church provided
17 assistance; Second Baptist Church was formally organized on
18 December 2, 1866, with John Ford, Arthur Newsome, and Peter
19 Newsome serving as trustees; its first African-American
20 minister was Rev. Richard DeBaptiste of Chicago, who served as
21 pastor prior to his death in 1901; born free in Ohio, he came
22 to Elgin to preach at the new church and baptized many of the
23 members; in the early days, even during the winter, baptisms

1 were conducted in the Fox River; and

2 WHEREAS, The first church building was a frame structure on
3 Center Street facing Barclay Park; later, a portion of the
4 church moved to Dundee Avenue and remained there until March
5 28, 1875, when it was destroyed by fire; services were then
6 held in City Hall until a new brick structure was erected in
7 1876 on the northwest corner of Dundee Avenue and Kimball
8 Street; Newsome Park now rests on this site and was named in
9 honor of the Newsome brothers who were among the church
10 organizers; and

11 WHEREAS, By 1959, the church had grown in membership and
12 the building and its contents were rapidly depreciating; the
13 members of Second Baptist Church moved into their new house of
14 worship on Franklin Boulevard on May 1, 1961; and

15 WHEREAS, On November 21, 1984, Rev. Shirley Roberts was
16 licensed as a minister and ordained on September 29, 1991,
17 becoming the first female minister in the history of the church
18 and the first African-American female to be licensed and
19 ordained in the City of Elgin; and

20 WHEREAS, Second Baptist Church moved into a new edifice on
21 Summit Street on August 19, 1990; and

1 WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Nathaniel L. Edmond was installed as the
2 new pastor on February 20, 2000; under his leadership, the
3 church has experienced tremendous growth; accomplishments
4 include the nursery being refurbished and re-opening in May of
5 2000; the first "Wonderful Wednesday" mid-week service
6 commenced on February 7, 2001; a second Sunday morning worship
7 service began in June of 2002; the church website was launched
8 in July of 2002; Noon Day Bible Study began in July of 2005;
9 and a mentoring partnership with Sheridan Elementary School
10 began in January of 2006; and

11 WHEREAS, In March of 2006, a Children's Church was
12 established to provide a service designed to meet the needs of
13 children ages 6 to 12; and

14 WHEREAS, In October of 2006, Pastor Edmond and First Lady
15 Christine Edmond traveled to Africa as part of a World Vision
16 International missionary trip; the church sponsored two
17 children in Tanzania; the number grew to 132 by February of
18 2007; and

19 WHEREAS, Then United States Senate Candidate Barack Obama
20 visited Second Baptist Church on May 11, 2003; his campaign
21 slogan was "A Chance to Believe Again"; embarking on a
22 grassroots campaign to build support in the State, he visited
23 the church to introduce himself to the community and to field

1 questions from potential voters; and

2 WHEREAS, Second Baptist Church operates a Young Adult
3 Ministry, Public Relations Ministry, Prison Ministry, Bus
4 Ministry, Divine Arts Ministry, Information Technology
5 Ministry, Children's Church, Youth Ministry, SAFE (Standing
6 Against Abuse for Everyone) Ministry, Empowerment Ministry,
7 and League of Military Veterans Ministry in order to spread its
8 message and reach the community; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
10 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
11 congratulate Second Baptist Church on its 150th anniversary and
12 wish them many more years of success; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to Second Baptist Church as an expression of our
15 esteem and respect.