

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 963  
By Johnson C

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the ministers and congregation of First Baptist Church of Clarksville upon the occasion of the church's 175th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, the churches of our nation have been an integral part of our history as a people and have an unparalleled impact in forming and maintaining a stable and just society; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflinching capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; one such estimable institution, shining as a ray of hope in the Clarksville community for 175 years, is First Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, the ministers and congregation of First Baptist Clarksville will be celebrating the church's 175th Anniversary with a special service on October 1, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the celebration will be a time of reflecting on the past, giving thanks for the present, and joyfully looking forward to a future filled with spiritual enrichment; and

WHEREAS, the devout spirit of the congregational descendants has remained strong enough to last 175 years and continues to strengthen; and

WHEREAS, just as the church's good works have remained constant, so has this special place been witness to many renowned preachers, including the current senior pastor, Roger P. Freeman; and

WHEREAS, the church has flourished under the able guidance of a growing number of admirable ministries, including Preschool, Children's, and Middle School Ministries; High

School and College Ministries; Singles, Adult, and Senior Adult Ministries; Music Ministry; Deaf Ministry; and Recreation Ministry; and

WHEREAS, following Jesus' command to "go ye forth and preach," the church's members are also devoted to sharing the joy and peace that can only be found within a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, the church's members have long made prominent contributions to the civic, educational, and social fabric of Tennessee and the world, as evidenced by the church's active benevolence programs; and

WHEREAS, the good people of First Baptist Church of Clarksville have also cultivated a moral and principled youth whose spiritual engagement is enhanced through their participation in the church's youth ministries, which provide young people a supportive atmosphere of Christian fellowship and a chance to hone their leadership skills; and

WHEREAS, the congregation of First Baptist Church of Clarksville has experienced numerous changes since the time their church was organized, not only in the lives and hearts of the members and the pastorate, but also in the church structure itself; and

WHEREAS, the church has voted to build new Children's Education space and Middle and High School Education space, expand their Fellowship Hall, and add a five-story parking garage, which improvements will allow them to serve more children and youth than ever before; and

WHEREAS, fueled by creative, loving, and spirited teachers, First Baptist Church of Clarksville's Sunday School Classes regularly attract a large number of the congregation of all ages who are called forth and inspired by the Lord to learn, develop, and share their talents with others; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church of Clarksville is among those exemplary institutions upon which a just and orderly society is based; it provides a safe haven for our citizens to worship their Creator as a community of faith from which they reach out to the secular community as a response to God's saving grace; and

WHEREAS, as a powerful tool in the service of the Kingdom of God, First Baptist Church of Clarksville is truly one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual

change in our State and Nation, and the members of this exceptional congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of Clarksville and Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join in celebrating the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of First Baptist Church of Clarksville, thank the good people of this historic congregation and their ministers for their notable service to their Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.