

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 230

By Haile

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the pastor and congregation of First Baptist Church of Gallatin on the 160th anniversary of the church.

WHEREAS, the many fine churches across this State are crucial elements contributing to the social and spiritual health of our State, and the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize significant milestones in the lives of those communities of faith; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic and historic community of faith is the First Baptist Church of Gallatin, whose members will celebrate its 160th anniversary on March 10, 2019; and

WHEREAS, located on East Main Street in Gallatin, the church was organized in 1859, by "fifteen members united in the constitution," with the first church building completed and dedicated in 1860, and serving soon thereafter as a hospital during the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, the original church was struck by lightning in 1897, igniting a fire that completely destroyed the building, but the faithful members of First Baptist Church finished the replacement building in 1898, which edifice was later demolished to make way for a larger building that was first occupied in 1949 and is still in use today; and

WHEREAS, all of the buildings have been located on the same site at the historic corner of Boyers and East Main, where many additions and renovations have enhanced the campus, including the addition of a towering steeple in 2002 and a beautiful entry foyer and welcome center in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the church has provided faithful assistance and inspiration to the surrounding community during its 160 years of service, with an emphasis on benevolence, missions at home and abroad, and biblical teaching and preaching for the welfare of the general public, as embodied in the mission statement "Connecting the disconnected to a growing

relationship with Christ and His Church"; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist has a long tradition of providing vibrant choral and musical programs, featuring outstanding vocalists and musicians, to inspire regular worshipers each week and the entire community during holiday and special occasions; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with Bledsoe Baptist Association and often working alongside other area churches, First Baptist has provided groups of volunteers, equipment, and supplies for work in areas of local disaster and sustained economic hardship; and

WHEREAS, the church has spread the flame of Christianity, ministering to the daily needs of the membership and the local community, including "Starting Strong," an annual effort to provide a Gospel witness through sharing Jesus's love verbally and providing essential clothing and school supplies to children as they return to the classroom each fall; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist has been a cooperative and supportive partner with the City of Gallatin and Sumner County as growth and community needs are met, as well as being an ambassador of goodwill, representing Gallatin and Sumner County in its many mission endeavors with participants of all ages and raising the banner of Christ as they spread His love to the people of the United States and countries around the world; and

WHEREAS, under the outstanding leadership of Senior Pastor Dr. Travis Fleming, dedicated Deacons, staff, support team, and many dedicated servant leaders, First Baptist Church continues to be a landmark for worship and service; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church has been a positive spiritual force in the local community, our State, and nation and on mission fields throughout the world; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the members and leadership of the First Baptist Church of Gallatin on the celebration of the church's 160th anniversary, offering our best wishes for many years of continued success serving God and humanity.

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