

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 299

By Bell

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Eastanallee Baptist Church.

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

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations that, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic and historic community of faith is Eastanallee Baptist Church, the members of which are celebrating the church's 200th anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, Eastanallee Baptist Church was founded in 1819 by Jesse Dodson, who came to the Eastanallee Valley seeking farmland and a place to worship; a brush arbor meeting was held on the Matlock property, and from that worship service, a Baptist church was established; Brother Dodson served as the church's pastor for many years; and

WHEREAS, the congregation has worshipped in several buildings over the years: the church met in a log cabin on William Porter's land for a number of years, and a small church was built in 1833; a new building was erected in 1867 and was used until 1913, when once again the church needed to enlarge its meeting space; and

WHEREAS, the church moved into the newly constructed white church building in 1913 and worshipped there until 1975, when the new red brick church opened on the south side of the property; at that time, the white building was torn down and the space was converted into a

parking lot, and in 1981, ten classrooms were added to the back of the church building. A multi-purpose building was constructed in 2006; and

WHEREAS, in its 200 years, Eastanallee Baptist Church has helped establish several churches in the area that are also bringing people to Christ; the mission zeal of the present congregation is an inherited quality from the members of the early church, and a number of current church members are descendants of the church's founder, Jesse Dodson; and

WHEREAS, church membership has grown from 101 members in 1831 to more than 600 members today; and

WHEREAS, since its founding, Eastanallee Baptist Church has been blessed with wonderful men of God who have led church members in a better understanding of His Word; these men include Jesse Dodson, William Forrest, William Newton, Robert Sneed, Calvin Denton, W.A. Nelson, Joseph Janeway, J.R. Pennington, G. Lee, R.J. Womack, J.W. Townsend, F.A. Webb, Will Shamblin, Floyd Long, K.C. Baker, Billy Liner, Jake Ray, Charles Runion, John Wyatt, David Hudson, Sherrill Webb, Jack Bryan, Sam Melton, Oran Creasman, Mickey L. Basham, Sr., Ralph Jenkins, and Tony Crisp; and

WHEREAS, the church's current pastor, Dr. Richard Segó, began his ministry at Eastanallee Baptist Church on March 10, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Eastanallee Baptist Church continues to be a light in the community, and the devout members of the congregation have faithfully striven to carry out God's work in the world; and

WHEREAS, as a powerful tool in the service of the Kingdom of God, Eastanallee Baptist Church 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 Tennessee; 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 join in the celebration of the 200th anniversary of Eastanallee Baptist

Church, 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.