

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1079

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to recognize Southside Baptist Church on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

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 we 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 that of Southside Baptist Church, whose members recently celebrated the church's fiftieth anniversary; and

WHEREAS, Southside Baptist Church began as Southside Baptist Mission, the fourth mission church established by First Baptist Church of Newport; the project, which was originally a Sunday school class offered by First Baptist Church, was co-chaired by Roy Proffitt and Charlie Creasey and the members of the first class included Frank Gorman, Sr., George Gregory, Don Meredith, Charlie Creasey, Roy Proffitt, Richard Williams, W.C. Vinson, Jr., Jim Masters, Charles S. Runnion, Jr., Claude Balch, Howard Gandy, and Bob Edwards; and

WHEREAS, the first class was held on January 4, 1970, in the Jones Administration Building of the Newport Housing Authority with Leta Ratcliff, Frank Gorman, Sr., and Mary Vinson sharing the teaching duties; attendance continued to grow over the next six years until the former Sunday school class erected its own building and held its first service on December 12, 1976; and

WHEREAS, on January 8, 1984, Southside Baptist Mission became Southside Baptist Church; over the last fifty years, the congregation has been uplifted by the stewardship of

pastors Steve Ownby, Jimmy Myers, Mike Higgins, Marshall Knight, Charles Lowery, Bob Hogan, William Swafford, John "Sonny" Fultz, Dr. Charlie Boggan, and current pastor, Dr. Don Smith; and

WHEREAS, as the church celebrates fifty years of service, it 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, Southside 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 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 fiftieth anniversary of Southside 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 and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.