

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 43

BY REPRESENTATIVE LYONS

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church upon the celebration of its one hundredth anniversary and recognizes its history

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church of Marrero upon its one hundredth  
3 year anniversary and to recognize its rich Christian tradition and history.

4 WHEREAS, more than one hundred years ago, Harvey residents the Reverend Louis  
5 H. Johnson, Sr., his wife, Constance Johnson, Jim White and his wife, Emma White, Bella  
6 Harang, and Arthur Dobby Hicks met to petition the Lord on behalf of the Reverend  
7 Johnson's vision for a new house of worship, and on July 10, 1915, the vision became  
8 reality; and

9 WHEREAS, Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church was birthed in the home of  
10 Sister Harang with the founding members dedicated to purchasing land and building an  
11 edifice; the women cooked suppers and baked pies, and the brothers sold the edibles on the  
12 riverfront for as much as fifteen cents; and

13 WHEREAS, a certain Mr. Toyhine owned land he planned to sell for use as a  
14 barroom but the prayers of the founding members resulted in Mr. Toyhine selling the land  
15 to them; not only did he sell them the land on which Morning Star currently resides, but he  
16 was moved by the Holy Spirit to donate the adjacent lot to the church; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1919, construction began with volunteer workers who completed the  
18 church building in 1920; in 1923, the muddy Mississippi River served as the initial baptism  
19 venue for Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, and twenty-nine souls were baptized;  
20 and

1           WHEREAS, in 1953, founding Pastor Louis H. Johnson was called from labor to  
2 reward, and the Reverend Charles Samuel Williams was elected as Morning Star's second  
3 spiritual leader; the Reverend Williams resigned in 1964, and the Reverend Joseph Walker,  
4 Jr., was elected to take on the mantle of leadership; and

5           WHEREAS, along with five other men of the church, Pastor Walker led by example,  
6 and the group mortgaged their homes to match \$100,000 raised by the church to build a new  
7 \$200,000 edifice; in five years, the mortgage was paid in full, and Pastor Walker continued  
8 to bless the congregation until his retirement in 1994; and

9           WHEREAS, on December 31, 1994, the Lord gifted the Morning Star Baptist Church  
10 congregation with a spiritual leader who continues the great tradition of obedience to God's  
11 Word in the form of the Reverend Thomas J. Brown, Jr.; and

12           WHEREAS, the Reverend Brown has received and is actively implementing the  
13 vision God has given him concerning the church: "to see God raise up a spiritually strong  
14 church, rendering praise and glorying Him to the fulfillment of His will and purpose"; and  
15 it is fitting to pay honor to the rich history of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church in its  
16 one hundredth year of existence.

17           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
18 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church  
19 upon the celebration of its one hundredth anniversary and does hereby express best hopes  
20 and prayers for continued fruitfulness in faith and steadfast proclamation of the Gospel.

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
22 to the Reverend Thomas J. Brown, Jr.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 43 Original

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Lyons

Commends Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church of Marrero on its one hundredth anniversary.