

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 43

BY REPRESENTATIVE LYONS

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES