

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1572

Honoring the selfless acts of adoption, fostering, and unconditional love by Bishop W.C. Martin, First Lady Donna Martin, and the Bennett Chapel Missionary Baptist Church of Possum Trot, Texas, toward the children in their community, and recognizing families across America who strive to foster, adopt, and better the lives of vulnerable children in the foster care system.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 14, 2024

Mr. MORAN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

RESOLUTION

Honoring the selfless acts of adoption, fostering, and unconditional love by Bishop W.C. Martin, First Lady Donna Martin, and the Bennett Chapel Missionary Baptist Church of Possum Trot, Texas, toward the children in their community, and recognizing families across America who strive to foster, adopt, and better the lives of vulnerable children in the foster care system.

Whereas there are approximately 370,000 children in the child welfare system nationwide, many of whom have suffered neglect, abuse, or trauma while they were living in neglectful, dangerous, or unsafe environments;

Whereas the families of the Bennett Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Possum Trot, Texas, under the leadership of Bishop and First Lady Martin, came to the rescue of 77 of these children by providing safe and caring homes through their determination, prayer, and unconditional love;

Whereas, nearly three decades ago, Bishop W.C. Martin and his wife Donna crusaded for members of their 100-member congregation church to adopt children from the overwhelmed Texas foster care system in and around the Possum Trot, Texas, community;

Whereas the Martins, who already had 2 biological children, decided to adopt another 4, starting a movement of 22 families within the Possum Trot community to adopt or foster children without a home;

Whereas Mrs. Martin was inspired to adopt after the death of her beloved mother, Murtha, who had raised 18 children, and stated, “And the Holy Spirit said, ‘Think about those other children out there that do not have what you had with your mother.’ I was overcome with such warmth. I walked back into the house, picked up the Yellow Pages and called an adoption agency”;

Whereas this story has been retold in the recent film, “Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot”, which is a story of inspiration for all of us to give more; to love more; to do more for those around us, and according to Bishop Martin, the “Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot” serves as a testimony of “hope for children, hope that they will find a primacy in their life, a home, a mother, a father, love and God”; and

Whereas the Martins continue to lead Bennett Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Possum Trot today, and continue to advocate for foster and adoptive care nationwide: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) highlights National Adoption Awareness
3 Month;

4 (2) recognizes the importance of a stable, safe,
5 and loving home for the overall well-being and suc-
6 cess of a child, and how adoption is an important
7 permanency option and has changed the lives of mil-
8 lions of children for the better;

9 (3) honors Bishop W.C. Martin, First Lady
10 Donna Martin, and the Bennett Chapel Missionary
11 Baptist Church for their many acts of selflessness
12 and unconditional love through adoption and fos-
13 tering in the Possum Trot, Texas, community;

14 (4) honors the many families across America
15 who are currently fostering or adopting and the or-
16 ganizations supporting these families, including fam-
17 ilies acting as guardians or providing kinship care,
18 and the many children who benefit from foster, kin-
19 ship, guardianship, and adoptive care;

20 (5) encourages other families to consider fos-
21 tering and adopting children, or to find an avenue

1 to support such loving families who have undertaken
2 to foster and adopt; and

3 (6) supports the enactment of legislation such
4 as H.R. 8793, the Foster Care Adoption Oversight
5 and Support Act, which would collect data on adop-
6 tions from the foster care system to improve out-
7 comes for adopted children and their families and to
8 identify discrepancies in resources and services to
9 families and children.

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