

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 325

By Matheny

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Viola church of Christ upon the occasion of its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Homecoming Celebration.

WHEREAS, the many fine churches across this State constitute an institutional foundation for an orderly and just society, and their dedicated service to God and humanity is the bedrock upon which our State and nation are founded; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, 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 the Viola church of Christ, whose members will honor its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary during a special homecoming celebration on May 17, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Viola church of Christ began as a merger of Antioch Christian church and Philadelphia church, the oldest church of Christ in Warren County; and

WHEREAS, the congregation kept the name Christian Church from 1890 until the Restoration Movement, when it took its current name; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 1890, approximately one and one-half acres were bought for the construction of the present Viola church of Christ structure; the builders were Haskell Stubblefield and Sam Etter; and

WHEREAS, the first elders of the congregation were Euclid Waterhouse Smartt, George Ramsey, and David Hampton Wooten; and

WHEREAS, for 125 years, the church in Viola has been a shining light to many of the residents in the surrounding valley, and its congregation is always ready to help with both the spiritual and physical needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, a powerful tool in service to the Kingdom of God, Viola church of Christ is one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and nation; and

WHEREAS, Viola church of Christ has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love for 125 years, and it is fitting for the members of this General Assembly to recognize this church at this time; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join in honoring the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Viola church of Christ with a homecoming celebration, thank the good people of this remarkable congregation and their pastors for their notable service to their Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness for years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.