

House Resolution 2127

By: Representative Dempsey of the 13th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending William S. Davies for his service to the Rome community; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, William S. Davies is the recipient of a Heart of the Community award
4 sponsored by the Redmond Regional Medical Center and produced by the Heart of the
5 Community Board of Governors; and

6 WHEREAS, an unusually selfless member of the Rome community, William S. Davies was
7 born in Barbourville, Kentucky. The son of a Welsh coal miner who migrated to this country
8 in the early part of the 20th century, Davies had a powerful role model in both his parents;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, he received a Bachelor of Science degree in education at Union College in
11 Barbourville in 1966. Later, he received a master's degree in religious education/social work
12 from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville; and

13 WHEREAS, Davies's service to the ministry seemed to take him everywhere during those
14 early years. Before coming to Rome in 1974, he served as minister of education at Judson
15 Memorial Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee, and the First Baptist Church of Athens,
16 Tennessee. Until his retirement, however, he served as a minister of education and
17 administration at First Baptist Church in Rome. Through the viewfinder of Davies's eyes,
18 it is easy to understand his concern for the less fortunate. "Simply put, they needed my help";
19 and

20 WHEREAS, his phenomenal work ethic seemed to cross all barriers with relative ease. His
21 community service began while he was at First Baptist Church with the expansion of the
22 church's soup kitchen. To his credit, the soup kitchen, which now offers meals every day in
23 downtown Rome, is no longer limited to the First Baptist locale. His engaging personality
24 encouraged other churches in the city and county to join in the effort; and

1 WHEREAS, so powerful is his spirit of volunteerism that he often works through the Floyd
2 County Baptist Association to provide canned goods for the hungry and hospital beds for the
3 aging and afflicted. In his mind, there should never be an instance when a person needs help
4 and cannot secure it; and

5 WHEREAS, specifically, Rev. Davies came together with Horace Stewart of First Christian
6 Church to realize what wasn't obvious: many needy families could not come for meals at
7 noon. "Meals and More" became both their solution and their renewed emphasis. As a result,
8 these meals to go are provided each Tuesday at First Christian Church in downtown Rome;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Davies's propensity for helping the needy took a powerful turn when the doors
11 opened to the William S. Davies Homeless Shelters in South Rome; and

12 WHEREAS, humbled by the naming of the shelter, Davies continues to be involved in every
13 aspect of its ministries: teaching, bible study, fund raising, collecting gifts of food and
14 charitable moneys, and helping its clients find jobs; and

15 WHEREAS, he is married to Merrill Johnson Davies, and they have two daughters, Melanie
16 Dempsey and Lori Barfield, and six grandchildren.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
18 the members of this body commend the service William S. Davies has given to the Rome
19 community and offer their best wishes for his continued good health and happiness.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
21 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to William S. Davies.