

House Resolution 1272

By: Representatives Dickerson of the 95th, Stephenson of the 92nd, Dawkins-Haigler of the 93rd, Smith of the 122nd, Kendrick of the 94th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing Bald Rock Baptist Church; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Bald Rock Baptist Church was founded approximately in 1861 and is Rockdale
3 County's first African American congregation; and
- 4 WHEREAS, back then, worship services were held in a brush harbor under the leadership
5 of Reverend Charles Toggle; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the temporary structure served its purposes and was located on property not
7 owned by Bald Rock Church members since it was an era in which slaves could not own
8 land; and
- 9 WHEREAS, it is believed that the plantation in which Bald Rock Church was located served
10 as a place of worship for slaves who shared the same last name as their masters; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Bald Rock church was one of the area's first to hold church school dating back
12 to as early as 1883; and
- 13 WHEREAS, the original structure is now a historic site located on Costley Mill Road at the
14 Georgia International Horse Park; and
- 15 WHEREAS, since 1994 the church has been at its current location and was mainly built by
16 the members of Bald Rock led by Reverend Jack Maulsby, Pastor; Deacon Robert Rome,
17 Chairman; Frank Swift, Vice Chairman; Albert Banks, Willie Banks, Rufus Bigby, John
18 Cox, V. Giles, Rufus Henderson, John Penn, Freddie Ross, John Robinson, Rufus Roseberry,
19 A.R. Shaw, E.J. Shaw, and S. Strong; and many women who also contributed their time and
20 efforts in building the church; and

21 WHEREAS, Mother Clara Sims is the oldest member of Bald Rock Baptist Church and is
22 99 years old; and

23 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this enduring example of God's message
24 of peace and love be recognized and congratulated for its innumerable good works rendered
25 on behalf of persons in need.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
27 the members of this body commend Bald Rock Baptist Church for more than 150 years of
28 steadfast, unselfish, and loving service to the people of this state and wish the congregation
29 continued growth and prosperity.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
31 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Bald Rock Baptist Church.