

## House Resolution 52

By: Representatives Nix of the 69<sup>th</sup>, Pezold of the 133<sup>rd</sup>, and Epps of the 132<sup>nd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the senior pastor of the First Baptist Church on the Square,  
2 Dr. Paul R. Baxter, on the occasion of his 30th anniversary at the church; and for other  
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia celebrates the dedicated tenure of one of its most  
5 distinguished citizens with the honoring of Dr. Paul R. Baxter's 30 years as pastor of the First  
6 Baptist Church on the Square; and

7 WHEREAS, he was born on June 13, 1947, in Harrow, England, later immigrating as a child  
8 with his family to Erwin, Tennessee; and

9 WHEREAS, Pastor Paul Baxter is united in love and marriage to Joanna Botti and blessed  
10 with two remarkable daughters, Paula and Sarah; and

11 WHEREAS, he attended the University of Georgia, served as minister to men's affairs, and  
12 graduated magna cum laude from the honors program; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Baxter received a master's degree in divinity from the Yale University  
14 Divinity School as well as a doctorate in practical Apologetics from the Southern Baptist  
15 Theological Seminary; and

16 WHEREAS, he devotes his time pastoring the First Baptist Church on the Square in  
17 LaGrange, Georgia, and since his tenure began in 1983 the congregation has progressed  
18 tremendously; and

19 WHEREAS, his loving and humble efforts have resulted in the construction of the CFLC,  
20 CDC, a new sanctuary, Children's Center, and New Life Building, as well as the completion  
21 of the parking lots on Church Street and the creation of the dental clinic; and

22 WHEREAS, his leadership has led to the introduction and continuation of several ministries  
23 that support, heal, and rejuvenate others despite their troubled circumstances; and

24 WHEREAS, he has committed himself to spreading the Baptist faith through sponsorship of  
25 both the New Missionary Baptist Church and the Korean Mission Church, as well as his  
26 numerous mission trips around the world; and

27 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that Pastor Baxter, an enduring example of  
28 God's message of peace and love, be recognized and congratulated for his innumerable good  
29 works rendered on behalf of persons in need.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
31 the members of this body commend the dedicated service that Dr. Paul R. Baxter has  
32 accomplished and extend their congratulations on this occasion of his 30th anniversary as  
33 pastor of the First Baptist Church on the Square.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
35 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Dr. Paul R. Baxter.