

House Resolution 142

By: Representative Williamson of the 115th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Bethel Baptist Church on the occasion of its 176th
2 anniversary; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, as a nation united and founded under God, the religious institutions of this
4 country have set standards for moral values, as well as charity for those less fortunate, and
5 freedom to worship God; and

6 WHEREAS, Bethel Baptist Church in Good Hope, Georgia, was organized on September
7 28, 1837, by 14 members of the Baptist Church of Christ at Jack's Creek; and

8 WHEREAS, originally named the Missionary Baptist Church of Christ at Bethel, the church
9 later became Bethel Baptist Church and joined the Appalachian Association in September
10 1839; and

11 WHEREAS, the seeds which were sown in a local schoolhouse by the loving and humble
12 efforts of the devoted original worshipers of Bethel Baptist Church have blossomed, allowing
13 the church to grow from its original location on a two-acre tract donated by Brother
14 Benjamin Richardson to its current facilities which incorporate 20 acres; and

15 WHEREAS, Bethel Baptist Church has grown under the divine direction of numerous
16 pastors and leaders over the years, including Reverend John Hendricks, Reverend J.L. Drake,
17 Dr. Pat Hill, Wilson Donehoo, Jim Bolton, Dr. Clarence Sessions, Tony Long, W.T. Booth,
18 Frank Johnson, and Aaron Arledge; and

19 WHEREAS, the church has been a guiding force in the Good Hope area and beyond thanks
20 to the influence and dedication of past and present deacons and Sunday school leaders and
21 workers; and

22 WHEREAS, Bethel Baptist Church has reared, educated, and ordained four Baptist ministers:
23 Toombs McGaughey, James L. Clegg, James Gregg, and Branan G. Thompson, Jr.; and

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

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body recognize Bethel Baptist Church for its rich history, commend it
29 on its 176 years of dedicated service to the Lord and community, and extend best wishes for
30 its continued growth and success.

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