

House Resolution 130

By: Representatives Frazier of the 126th, Howard of the 124th, Sharper of the 177th, Jackson of the 128th, Bruce of the 61st, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Congratulating and commending the First Ebenezer Baptist Church of Hephzibah, Georgia,
2 on its 201st anniversary; and for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, the First Ebenezer Baptist Church had its beginnings in 1812 when a handful
4 of slaves gathered for worship service on the Rhodes Family Plantation in Hephzibah; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Reverend Peter Johnson was the first pastor of First Ebenezer Baptist Church
6 and he urged the congregation to be a dynamic church and put on the full armor of God; and
- 7 WHEREAS, in 1840, First Ebenezer Baptist Church received membership in the Georgia
8 Baptist Association as the fourth black church to be a part of the Georgia Baptist
9 Association; and
- 10 WHEREAS, in 1851, Mr. Absalom A. Rhodes sold the deacon board of First Ebenezer
11 Baptist Church a quarter acre of land for a meeting place and, in 1852, sold the church an
12 additional five and two-fifths acres on which a church building was erected; and
- 13 WHEREAS, in 1866, the church left the Georgia Baptist Association and in 1867 formed the
14 Ebenezer Baptist Association which grew in influence with member churches across Georgia
15 and in South Carolina and Alabama; and
- 16 WHEREAS, the Ebenezer Baptist Association was paramount in the formation of the
17 Missionary Baptist Convention, the first African American convention, which led to many
18 of today's church organizations and associations; and
- 19 WHEREAS, in 1879, the church organized two daughter churches, Second Ebenezer Baptist
20 Church and Spring Grove Baptist Church; and

21 WHEREAS, the church has continued to expand its property and work through the years, and
22 through the efforts of many gifted pastors, has ministered to the needs of the people of
23 Richmond County and the surrounding areas; and

24 WHEREAS, under the current leadership of its pastor, Reverend Moses D. Anderson, the
25 church has received many blessings, improved the ministries of the church, and taken the
26 gospel to the streets; and

27 WHEREAS, in 2002 the church was honored with historic status, and in 2003 a historical
28 marker was erected at the church during the church's celebration of its 191st anniversary; and

29 WHEREAS, the church stands as an inspiration to the people of Hephzibah, a church
30 founded to provide slaves a place to freely worship that has endured as a beacon of hope and
31 ministry throughout the years; and

32 WHEREAS, the members of the First Ebenezer Baptist Church are proud of the great
33 organized body of Christian believers upon whom the goodness of the Lord has showered
34 many blessings, and appreciate the efforts of those who have served and helped along the
35 way and those who continue the work of inspiring those coming along; and

36 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to recognize and commend the First Ebenezer Baptist
37 Church of Hephzibah for its service and its diligent pursuit of its mission and purpose of
38 advancing the kingdom of Jesus Christ through public worship, preaching the Gospel,
39 personal evangelism, Christian education, and ministry to the needs of people of all walks
40 of life.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
42 the members of this body congratulate and commend the First Ebenezer Baptist Church for
43 its 201 years of exemplary service and dedication to the Gospel and the community it serves
44 and extend best wishes for continued success in its ministries and activities.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
46 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the First Ebenezer Baptist
47 Church.