

# 2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

24200233D

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 739

Offered June 27, 2024

3 *Commending Culpeper Baptist Church.*

4  
5 Patron—  
6

7 WHEREAS, for 250 years, Culpeper Baptist Church has provided its members with uplifting spiritual  
8 guidance, occasions for joyful fellowship and worship, and opportunities for generous community outreach;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Culpeper Baptist Church was originally founded in 1774 as Mount Poney Baptist Church by  
11 David Thomas and Nathaniel Saunders, who had been imprisoned a year prior for preaching the gospel  
12 without a license at a time when the laws of the land did not guarantee individuals their religious freedom;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, John Leland, a prominent Baptist leader whose advocacy for religious liberty fostered the  
15 passage of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in the late 18th century, served as  
16 pastor of Culpeper Baptist Church, then called Mount Poney Baptist Church, from 1777 to 1779; and

17 WHEREAS, Mount Poney Baptist Church continued to grow into the 19th century and a second church  
18 by the Culpeper Court House was established in the 1830s; that second church would later be sold, and a  
19 third church was erected in 1859, which served the congregation until it was destroyed by fire in 1892; and

20 WHEREAS, in 1873, the members of Mount Poney Baptist Church voted to change the church's name to  
21 Culpeper Baptist Church; following the fire of 1892, the congregation was located for some time on Davis  
22 Street, then, with a gift from Alice Booton, daughter of the Reverend E.W. Winfrey, who served as the  
23 church's pastor from 1889 to 1931, the church moved to its current location on South West Street; and

24 WHEREAS, throughout the 20th century, Culpeper Baptist Church thrived under the leadership of its  
25 pastors, including the Reverend John Farrar (1958–1984), the Reverend Herbert O. Browning (1985–1995),  
26 and the Reverend Ted W. Fuson (1996–2010); since August 2014, the congregation has been led by the  
27 Reverend Daniel Carlton; and

28 WHEREAS, in addition to providing two worship services, Sunday school classes, a day care program,  
29 Korean and Spanish services, and worship space for neighboring congregations, Culpeper Baptist Church has  
30 also partnered with more than 50 local organizations to develop meaningful and impactful outreach initiatives  
31 that make a difference in the community; and

32 WHEREAS, for a quarter millennium, Culpeper Baptist Church has served as a beacon in the community  
33 and as a spiritual home to the countless individuals who have found a greater sense of purpose and belonging  
34 within its walls; now, therefore, be it

35 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Culpeper Baptist Church hereby be commended on the  
36 occasion of its 250th anniversary; and, be it

37 RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for  
38 presentation to the Reverend Daniel Carlton, pastor of Culpeper Baptist Church, as an expression of the  
House of Delegates' admiration for the church's history and its contributions to the Commonwealth.

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