

2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 739

Commending Culpeper Baptist Church.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, June 28, 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for 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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