

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 64

BY SENATOR PRICE

A RESOLUTION

To commend First Mount Carmel Baptist Church for one hundred fifty years of service to the Sunshine, Louisiana, community and the members of its congregation.

WHEREAS, the First Mount Carmel Baptist Church, of Sunshine, Louisiana, was duly incorporated on September 13, 1868, and previously known as the African Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, the first pastor of the First Mount Carmel Baptist Church was the Rev. C. G. Burnett who served until his death and was succeeded by Rev. Thomas Brown; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Fountain Coleman became pastor with a membership of one hundred seventy-five and rebuilt the church in 1891; and

WHEREAS, in 1892, Rev. Coleman built a school out of the old building, and not only pastored the First Mount Carmel Baptist Church congregation, but organized and set apart churches in other communities; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Fountain Coleman was a great minister, pastor, leader, and pioneer, and left a legacy for all who followed after him; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Sandia Porter succeeded Rev. Coleman and served until he passed away and Rev. Abram Lewis, a kind and gentle man of God, served the First Mount Carmel Baptist Church until he was called to his reward in glory after Rev. Porter; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Robert Brown became pastor of the First Mount Carmel Baptist Church in 1960 and his main objective has been to make it a scriptural church, meaning to do all things God's way, not our way, and to win souls for Christ; and

WHEREAS, under Rev. Brown's leadership, various auxiliaries were organized, including the first Trustee Board, the Victory Workers, the Pastor's Aid, the Junior Choir, and the Home Mission Board; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Brown also organized the first Women's Day program and due to the tremendous effort of the Women's Day committee and the support of the members, one thousand five hundred dollars was raised to panel the church; and

WHEREAS, as Rev. Brown and the membership continued to work together, other

remodeling and beautification projects were completed, including having the roof lowered, adding an annex with a kitchen, a pastor's study and a secretary's office, installing central heating and air conditioning, as well as new carpet and tiled flooring; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Brown donated the first light fixtures of the old church and had an indoor baptismal pool installed; and

WHEREAS, over time, the one hundred plus year structure began to decay, and in 1992, preparation for a new church began; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, the new church building was completed and opened for service on Sunday, February 13, 1994; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Robert Brown has lovingly served First Mount Carmel Baptist Church and led as its pastor for the past fifty years; and

WHEREAS, he has, on numerous occasions, blessed infants who were dedicated to the Lord, baptized children, officiated over countless wedding ceremonies, and consoled many families during their hour of bereavement; and

WHEREAS, he has also displayed a compassionate, caring spirit with each visit to the sick who are homebound, in hospitals, and in nursing homes, but most importantly, in the pulpit, standing behind the sacred desk, Pastor Brown preached and taught the truth of God's word with boldness and conviction; and

WHEREAS, as he moves forward into an era of promise for First Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Rev. Brown continues to put his faith, trust, and ministry in God's hands for the betterment of the congregation and community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend First Mount Carmel Baptist Church for one hundred fifty years of service to the Sunshine, Louisiana, community and the members of its congregation and does hereby extend prayers for continued fruitfulness in faith and guidance by the hand of God in every endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to First Mount Carmel Baptist Church.