

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 60

BY REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL

A RESOLUTION

To commend Pleasant Valley Missionary Baptist Church on the occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary.

WHEREAS, Pleasant Valley Missionary Baptist Church was officially organized in 1950 at the Law Height Hall under the leadership of the Reverend Ruben Watts; in August 1952, the church purchased property at 3056 Laussat Place and converted the house into a church; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, the church building was destroyed by Hurricane Betsy, and in May 1968, a new church edifice was constructed at the same location; and

WHEREAS, after Reverend Watts's passing in July 1981, Brother Pete Varnado, Jr., accepted the call to ministry, and on December 13, 1983, he was installed as pastor; on May 9, 1995, the church sanctuary was severely damaged by a devastating flood, and the building's interior was subsequently renovated; and

WHEREAS, Pleasant Valley faced another tragedy on August 29, 2005, when the entire sanctuary was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina; Pastor Varnado and the church's trustee board handled the majority of the church's affairs while many members of the congregation were displaced throughout the country; in November 2006, the church acquired property at 5919 Morrison Road in New Orleans East; and

WHEREAS, Pleasant Valley began holding Sunday worship services in April 2006 with the help of the Greater Evergreen Baptist Church; the church also held prayer services and bible classes on Wednesday evenings; Sister Mary Lou Porter, the member who gave Pleasant Valley its name, attended the first service in the church's new location; and

WHEREAS, after Pastor Pete Varnado, Jr., fell ill, Reverend Reginald Varnado, Sr., was appointed to serve as interim pastor, and Reverend Nikki Carr was appointed to serve as youth pastor; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Reginald Varnado, Sr., was elected as Pleasant Valley's senior pastor on November 27, 2011, and on December 15, 2011, the beloved Reverend Pete Varnado, Jr., passed away; the Louisiana Freedmen Missionary Baptist General Association officially installed Reverend Reginald Varnado, Sr., as pastor on December 30, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Pleasant Valley Missionary Baptist Church has overcome tremendous obstacles over the last seventy-five years, but its members are faithful in their adherence to the church's motto: "To continue steadfastly in the Apostle's doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. Praising God, and having favor with all people".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Pleasant Valley Missionary Baptist Church on the occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that the pastors and congregation continue to prosper in all of their spiritual endeavors.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES