

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

BY SENATORS PEACOCK AND ROBERT MILLS AND REPRESENTATIVE PRESSLY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Dr. R. Pat Day, senior pastor, of First United Methodist Church in Shreveport, Louisiana, upon his retirement after twenty-seven years of faithful service and inspiring leadership.

WHEREAS, First United Methodist Church in Shreveport, Louisiana, was founded in 1845; and

WHEREAS, through a quarter of a century, First United Methodist Church's worshiping community has grown greatly under Dr. Day's pastoral leadership; and

WHEREAS, while Dr. Day has made a lasting impact through his sermons, he has also officiated numerous weddings, baptized and confirmed many children, comforted his flock in the hospital and at funerals through which his longstanding consistency and service served as an extraordinary blessing to his congregation and many more; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Day's leadership, the First United Methodist Church's budget has more than tripled in size during his twenty-seven year tenure, from \$1.5 million to \$5 million, due to membership and stewardship commitments; and

WHEREAS, the First United Methodist Church campus has greatly increased in size through three significant capital campaigns (1996, 2003, 2007) and provides a beacon of hope and light in the midst of downtown Shreveport which he greatly enhanced; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Day created leadership seminars and opportunities for personal growth for members of First United Methodist Church and the Shreveport-Bossier communities at-large, and he plans to continue to be involved in leadership seminars in Texas during his retirement; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Day, in 2010, announced from the pulpit that the church would pour resources into four major areas of ministry: Small Groups, Discipleship, Missions, and Leadership, and hundreds of members have connected in small groups and deepened their relationships with Christ; they have sowed the fruits of their faith by serving not only in Shreveport, but all around the globe, serving as leaders in their homes, community, state, and world; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Day is gifted with unprecedented vision; he wholeheartedly prayed for First United Methodist Church to devote \$1 million yearly toward local and global missions and even more importantly was the change of mindset on how to move forward with missions; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Day led the charge away from transactional missions to transformational relationships by encouraging the mission's leaders to intentionally move away from doing projects for people, and instead meet the holistic needs of those with whom First United Methodist partners in ministry, and as a result, First United Methodist Church is known locally, nationally, and internationally for servant leadership and the ministry of presence and compassion; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Day consistently places God's direction and excellence above any particular special interests; he continually invests in developing lay and staff leadership, who turn their gifts and talents back into making First United Methodist Church great; and

WHEREAS, numerous pastors currently leading large thriving Methodist churches developed as associate pastors at First United Methodist Church during Dr. Day's twenty-seven years; and

WHEREAS, from the pulpit, Dr. Day shares the message of hope and optimism of a life rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and in a world filled with depressing headlines and daily changes, his ever-relevant message of the Gospel delivers hope to those listening in the pews, on the radio through a morning message on KEEL, or through the television; and

WHEREAS, more than anything else, Dr. Day possesses a passionate heart for God, he always places God in the lead and follows Him which shows every Sunday morning in his powerful sermons and each day in his leadership of the church.

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does, upon his retirement, hereby recognize and appreciate Dr. R. Pat Day's dedication, commitment, great leadership, accomplishments, and achievements which are symbolic of his God given ministry to serve his flock, community, and the citizens of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. R. Pat Day.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES