

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 177

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

COMMENDATIONS: Posthumously commends Reverend Andrew Thomas Mitchell for his contributions to religious and community life in West Monroe

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To posthumously commend the Reverend Andrew Thomas "A. T." Mitchell, known in his
3 lifetime as "Brother Tom", for his many contributions to religious and community
4 life in West Monroe, Louisiana.

5 WHEREAS, Andrew Thomas Mitchell was born in 1895 in a small Mississippi town;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, both his father and grandfather were Baptist ministers; and

8 WHEREAS, he accepted the ministry as a call from God at the age of nineteen; and

9 WHEREAS, Reverend Mitchell first ministered at a church in Angie, Louisiana, then
10 pastored in Bernice, Louisiana, until 1940, when he felt the Lord calling him to establish a
11 church in West Monroe; and

12 WHEREAS, starting in a simple open-sided structure built of posts and tin, "Brother
13 Tom", as he was known by then, grew his church steadily; and

14 WHEREAS, though that church, Ridge Avenue Baptist, would eventually become
15 the second-largest church in West Monroe, Brother Tom felt that his calling was not to build
16 the largest church, but to help other communities build churches in their own neighborhoods;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, when he became aware of churchgoers attending Ridge Avenue Baptist
19 from other communities, he would encourage them to buy property and would help them to
20 secure financing, build a church of their own, and find a preacher; and

1 WHEREAS, in the course of his career, Brother Tom would mentor twenty-four
2 young men who became ordained as ministers, and two who became missionaries; and

3 WHEREAS, Brother Tom was highly involved in community life beyond his church,
4 and was one of West Monroe's early leaders who pushed for establishment of a high school
5 and a hospital in his city; and

6 WHEREAS, he was so strong in his conviction that West Monroe needed a hospital
7 that when he was unable to muster the necessary support from among his fellow Baptists to
8 get a hospital built, he joined with efforts of local Methodists and played a key role in the
9 founding of Glenwood Hospital in the community; and

10 WHEREAS, a former mayor of West Monroe may have said it best when he stated
11 that if you needed a community improvement, you should let Brother Tom know, then get
12 out of his way while he went to work on it; and

13 WHEREAS, Brother Tom was active as a minister until the age of ninety-three,
14 spending the last twenty-seven years of his career as an interim pastor at numerous area
15 churches, some of which he helped to organize earlier in his life; and

16 WHEREAS, he died in 1991 at the age of ninety-six in his beloved West Monroe,
17 where his many notable contributions to the community are celebrated to this day.

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
19 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby posthumously commend the Reverend Andrew
20 Thomas "A.T." Mitchell, known in his lifetime as "Brother Tom", for his many contributions
21 to religious and community life in West Monroe, Louisiana.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
23 to the family of Reverend Andrew Thomas Mitchell.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Hoffmann

HR No. 177

Posthumously commends Reverend Andrew Thomas Mitchell for his contributions to religious and community life in West Monroe.