

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 111

BY REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL

COMMENDATIONS: Commemorates the one hundredth anniversary of New Hope Baptist Church

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of New Hope Baptist Church.

3 WHEREAS, it is most fitting to recognize New Hope Baptist Church for its history
4 of spiritual service and to commemorate the church's one hundredth anniversary; and

5 WHEREAS, New Hope Baptist Church was founded on April 16, 1926, by the late
6 Reverend Dotson and was initially known as Original Solid Rock Baptist Church; and

7 WHEREAS, after Reverend Dotson's passing, Reverend Freddie H. Dunn accepted
8 the call to shepherd the congregation; under his leadership, the church's membership grew
9 considerably and created a need for a larger sanctuary; and

10 WHEREAS, New Hope relocated to its current sanctuary in 1965; Pastor Dunn
11 faithfully served the needs of the growing congregation and community and spearheaded the
12 construction of a church educational building, which was completed in November 1985; and

13 WHEREAS, Pastor Dunn served New Hope until his passing on February 23, 1988,
14 and one month later, Reverend John C. Raphael was appointed to serve as pastor; the
15 membership continued to grow under Pastor Raphael, and the church established additional
16 ministries and programs to serve the community; and

17 WHEREAS, during Pastor Raphael's tenure, New Hope acquired numerous
18 properties that currently house Imani Breakthrough Recovery Project, Circle of Hope and
19 Healing Grief Support Group, and Lion Tamer's Ministry; and

1 WHEREAS, Pastor Raphael dedicated twenty-five years of service to the church
2 before his passing on June 15, 2013; New Hope Baptist's current pastor, Reverend Jamaal
3 Weathersby, was appointed on July 26, 2013; and

4 WHEREAS, Pastor Weathersby is committed to empowering his congregation with
5 the tools needed to expand the reach of New Hope Baptist's ministry and follows a vision
6 to further serve the church and the surrounding community; and

7 WHEREAS, Pastor Weathersby initiated plans for the construction of the JCR
8 Community Center in the fall of 2019; the project succeeded despite the challenges
9 presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, and in April 2024, the JCR Community Center
10 celebrated its grand opening; today, the center is used by organizations that empower youth
11 and uplift the broader community; and

12 WHEREAS, New Hope Baptist Church is most deserving of the highest recognition
13 for its century-long role as a beacon of faith, hope, service, and love in the Central City
14 neighborhood and throughout the New Orleans metropolitan area.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
16 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of New
17 Hope Baptist Church and does hereby extend sincere wishes that the church and its members
18 remain prosperous in all of their endeavors.

DIGEST

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HR 111 Original

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Newell

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