

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 111

BY REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES