

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 91

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Progressive Baptist Church of Lafayette, Louisiana, upon the celebration of its one hundredth anniversary and to recognize the church's century of faith, service, and spiritual leadership in the community.

WHEREAS, in 1925, Progressive Baptist Church was founded by Brothers and Sisters Warren Hall, W. O. Brian, R. Andersen, and Henry Sias and has served as a steadfast beacon of faith, hope, and community service since that time; and

WHEREAS, shortly after its organization, Reverend A. C. Marshall was called to serve as the first pastor of the new church, leading a dedicated congregation of nine members; and

WHEREAS, the small, white frame church was built in 1926, marking a new era of growth and stability for the congregation, and became affiliated with the Seventh District Missionary Baptist Association; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Marshall faithfully served Progressive Baptist Church for twenty years, after which Reverend Alex, Reverend J. J. Webster, Reverend E. D. Rideaux, Reverend C. R. Steward, and Reverend Freddie Banks were each called in turn to serve as pastors, continuing the church's mission of spreading the gospel and strengthening its ministry; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Raymond Smith later became pastor and oversaw a period of remarkable growth and development, including the expansion and renovation of the church building in 1953, to accommodate the increasing membership and the purchase of property for future expansion and construction, ultimately building the Fellowship Hall and securing land for use as a church cemetery; and

WHEREAS, following Reverend Smith's pastorship, Pastor Lloyd Joiner Jr. was called to serve as pastor of Progressive Baptist Church, ushering in an extraordinary era of growth, vision, and ministry; and

WHEREAS, under Pastor Joiner's dynamic leadership, the current sanctuary was

constructed, and the church continued to expand with numerous renovations and improvements, including construction of the Lloyd Joiner Jr. Educational Building to provide space for Christian education and ministries, as well as a daycare facility adjacent to the building to serve the needs of families in the community; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Joiner's commitment to community engagement also led to the establishment of the Progressive Community Outreach Center, which serves both the congregation and the wider Lafayette community by hosting health screenings, a GED program, sports events, financial literacy classes, grief share meetings, a summer enrichment program, and a testing center – all with the mission of sharing the love and word of God; and

WHEREAS, under Pastor Joiner's continued vision, the United Theological Seminary and Bible College established an extension campus on the grounds of Progressive Baptist Church, training men and women of various Christian denominations for leadership within their churches, communities, and beyond; and

WHEREAS, after forty-four years of faithful service, Pastor Lloyd Joiner, Jr. retired and now serves honorably as Pastor Emeritus; and

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2023, Dr. Chad E. Nora was elected as the next pastor of Progressive Baptist Church and since assuming leadership, he has emphasized three core focuses: strong biblical teaching, a loving and sincere church community, and caring, effective, and meaningful outreach; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Chad has overseen multiple facility upgrades, modernized church operations through digital innovation, introduced new ministry initiatives, and established the church's official vision, mission, and slogan, reflecting his commitment to unity, purpose, tradition, and progress; and

WHEREAS, 2025 marked the church's Centennial Celebration, a remarkable milestone that honored the vision, perseverance, and faith of generations past while looking forward with hope and purpose to the future; and

WHEREAS, Progressive Baptist Church commemorated this historic occasion with a Centennial Anniversary Gala on November 15, 2025, and a Centennial Church Anniversary Worship Service on November 16, 2025, both celebrating a century of spiritual guidance and community impact.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Progressive Baptist Church of Lafayette, Louisiana, upon the celebration of its one hundredth anniversary and does hereby recognize the church's century of faith, service, and spiritual leadership in the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Chad E. Nora, Pastor of Progressive Baptist Church.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE