

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 312

Recognizing Springfield Baptist Church as the first African-American church established in the City of Greensboro, Georgia, following the Emancipation Proclamation and, therefore, the oldest in Greene County, on the occasion of its placement as a permanent marker by the Georgia Historical Society.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2010

Mr. BROUN of Georgia (for himself, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. BARROW, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. MARSHALL) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing Springfield Baptist Church as the first African-American church established in the City of Greensboro, Georgia, following the Emancipation Proclamation and, therefore, the oldest in Greene County, on the occasion of its placement as a permanent marker by the Georgia Historical Society.

Whereas during the dark days of United States history when the Nation embraced slavery, there were 56 African-American members listed in the First Book of Conference at First Baptist Church in Greensboro, Georgia, in 1845,

and those individuals were required to gain permission from their slave owners in order to seek membership;

Whereas in the midst of the Civil War, African-American slaves residing in Greene County identified the importance of organizing themselves for better worship and establishing a church for their mutual encouragement and edification;

Whereas, on January 27, 1864, Henry Porter, Frank Massey, Umply Stocks, and Jack Terrell, all of whom were under the cruel institution of slavery, pulled their resources together to purchase 1.25 acres of land on the southern edge of Greensboro for \$6.25;

Whereas soon after, the aforementioned slaves purchased the Old Georgia Depot Building, converting the former train depot into a place of worship and named it Springfield Baptist Church;

Whereas after the Civil War, freedmen developed a community surrounding the church, identifying the neighborhood as “Canaan”, a Biblical reference to the land which God promised to his chosen people, the Israelites;

Whereas throughout the years, many distinguished guests, who were instrumental in advocating for civil rights, ministered at Springfield Baptist Church, including Dr. Samuel H. Archer, Dr. Charles D. Hubert, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

Whereas, on September 8, 1987, the U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service distinguished Springfield Baptist Church as a sacred edifice “worthy of preservation” and, therefore, placed the church on its National Register of Historic Places; and

Whereas the strength and compassion of the generations of families, who embraced Springfield Baptist as their church home, have contributed to making Greene County a stronger and more attractive community in which to live: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) recognizes Springfield Baptist Church as
 4 the first African-American church established in the
 5 City of Greensboro, Georgia, following the Emanci-
 6 pation Proclamation and, therefore, the oldest in
 7 Greene County, on the occasion of its placement as
 8 a permanent marker by the Georgia Historical Soci-
 9 ety; and

10 (2) commends the congregation of Springfield
 11 Baptist Church, including its many generations of
 12 pastors, church leaders, and families, for serving as
 13 a source of encouragement, inspiration, and pride
 14 for members of the community for more than a cen-
 15 tury.

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