## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 644

### By Representative Matlock

### and

### Mr. Speaker McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the twentieth anniversary of First Baptist Church of Tellico Village.

WHEREAS, the many fine churches across this state constitute an institutional foundation for an orderly and just society for all Tennesseans, and their dedicated service to God and humanity is the bedrock upon which our state and nation are founded; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations that, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic community of faith is First Baptist Church of Tellico Village, whose members celebrated the church's twentieth anniversary November 17–19, 2017; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church of Tellico Village traces its roots back to June 1995, when Reverend Ray Maynard, on a one-year leave from White County Baptist Association, led a church plant in Tellico Village called the Tellico Village Baptist Mission. In addition to Reverend and Mrs. Maynard, there were eight founding members who met together at the Chota Recreation Center and later the yacht club; and

WHEREAS, after Reverend Maynard returned to White County in the summer of 1996, Calvary Baptist Church of Lenoir City agreed to act as sponsor of the Tellico Village Baptist Mission to the Loudon County Baptist Association; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Jim Bishop, who would become the first full-time pastor of First Baptist Church of Tellico Village, preached his first sermon at the mission in October 1996; and

WHEREAS, in August 1997, the members of Tellico Village Baptist Mission voted to change its name to First Baptist Church of Tellico Village; the first service of the new church was held in November 1997, in its permanent space, a rented storefront, with forty-four persons in attendance, and a "constitution service" was held that same afternoon with fifty-one charter members listed; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church began seeking property to construct a church building in 1999, and Cooper Realty Investments contributed the land on which the church now sits; the current church building officially opened its doors May 19, 2002; and

WHEREAS, after the retirement of Reverend Bishop in March 2004, Reverend Dr. Glenn Gregg served as interim pastor until May 2005, when Reverend Dr. Charlie Barnard became the full-time pastor and offered his first official sermon on Memorial Day of 2005; and

WHEREAS, as the congregation grew, a master plan was adopted in 2009 to cover the years from 2010 to 2015, as a second phase of building included the construction of the current sanctuary and retirement of the mortgage in July 2012; and

WHEREAS, 2014 saw the groundbreaking of the third phase of construction as the edifice was expanded and occupied in May 2015; at present, the church building is approximately 35,000 square feet; and

WHEREAS, one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our state and nation, First Baptist Church of Tellico Village has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love for twenty years; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and commend the congregation of First Baptist Church of Tellico Village on the celebration of the church's twentieth anniversary, extending our best wishes for the church's continued success and growth in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. ___644___

ADOPTED: __February 1, 2018_____

_(signature)_
_____
BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

_(signature)_
_____
RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this __5th__ day of __February_____ 2018

_(signature)_
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BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR