

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 765

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Grace Methodist Church in Hearne on the grand occasion of its 150th anniversary; and

**WHEREAS**, Church members are gathering to commemorate this historic event with a special celebration in 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, The church's history begins in 1870 with Horace Bishop, a Methodist minister, who came to Hearne and rented a room at the hotel; the following day he was visited by three sisters, Mrs. Wash Hearne, Mrs. Charles Lewis, and Aunt Rhoda, who were former Methodists; although the ladies were not optimistic about building a Methodist church in the town, a congregation was started on the second floor of Joe Lambert's saloon with the help of two gentlemen, Jonathon Gideon Wilkerson and Nathan Kilgore; and

**WHEREAS**, The members of the congregation built a church building of their own in 1885, but they soon had to rebuild after a devastating fire, and they also contended with a storm that moved the church off its foundations; new pillars were put under the building where it stood after the storm, three feet to the south of its original location, and First Methodist Episcopal Church South was allowed to remain on that spot; and

**WHEREAS**, As the church membership grew, changes were made to the original structure; the present sanctuary was built in 1929, and the Memorial Building was erected in 1976; the name of the church was changed in 1948 to Grace United Methodist Church and again, in 1968, to Grace Methodist Church; and

**WHEREAS**, The rich heritage of Grace Methodist Church reflects the dedication by its members of their talents, vision, wisdom, and selfless service to others; and

**WHEREAS**, Grace Methodist Church has provided a place of worship for generations of faithful Christians and has played a significant role in the continuing growth and development of the city; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 86th Legislature, hereby commend the congregation of Grace Methodist Church in Hearne and extend best wishes for a joyful celebration of the church's 150th anniversary.

Schwertner

---

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the  
above Resolution was adopted by  
the Senate on May 17, 2019.

---

Secretary of the Senate

---

Member, Texas Senate