

HOUSE RESOLUTION 55

By Harwell

A RESOLUTION recognizing the *Gospel Advocate* on the celebration of its 160th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body are honored to recognize those storied organizations and institutions that are celebrating momentous, notable occasions in their histories; and

WHEREAS, the *Gospel Advocate*, a religious magazine published monthly in Nashville for members of the Churches of Christ, is one such institution, which is, this year, celebrating the 160th anniversary of its founding; and

WHEREAS, the *Gospel Advocate* has been conservative and Bible-based throughout its history, and it has remained committed to “the interests of the church of Jesus Christ, and especially, to the maintenance of the doctrine of salvation through the ‘Gospel of the Grace of God’”; and

WHEREAS, the *Gospel Advocate* also publishes Sunday School materials and operates Christian bookstores in Nashville and Mesquite, Texas; and

WHEREAS, founded in Nashville by Restoration Movement preacher Tolbert Fanning in July of 1855, the *Gospel Advocate* has served as a beacon of Christian faith and education for the past 160 years; and

WHEREAS, at the founding of the publication, Mr. Fanning was assisted in his efforts by his student, William Lipscomb, who served as co-editor until they were forced to suspend publication due to the outbreak of war in 1861; and

WHEREAS, publication resumed following the end of the Civil War and, since 1866, the *Gospel Advocate* has been published without interruption. Upon its resurrection in 1866, the

publication was again led by editors Tolbert Fanning and William Lipscomb, who were joined in this endeavor by Mr. Lipscomb's younger brother, David Lipscomb; and

WHEREAS, by 1869, Mr. Fanning had retired and David Lipscomb was the sole editor of the *Gospel Advocate*, which at that time was published each Thursday and distributed to a circulation of 1,850 people. In its early years, the publication provided church news, Bible lessons, letters from readers, book reviews, farm information, rural news, and anything which the editors felt would be spiritually helpful; and

WHEREAS, David Lipscomb spent fifty years at the helm of the *Gospel Advocate*, during which time he steered the publication with a focus on seeking unity by following scripture. Subsequent editors changed the editorial tone and direction throughout the years, but the focus has remained the same these past 160 years: the promotion of Christianity based on New Testament precedents; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Tolbert Fanning and William and David Lipscomb, the *Gospel Advocate* has benefited from the leadership and editorial guidance of Robert Henry Boll, Foy E. Wallace, John T. Hinds, B.C. Goodpasture, Ira North, Neil A. Anderson, and Gregory Tidwell, the current editor of the publication; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the *Gospel Advocate* has been a family-owned business, passing from the Fannings, to the Lipscombs, to the McQuiddys and, in 1990, to the Andersons, who currently own the publication; and

WHEREAS, notable events in the history of the *Gospel Advocate* include J.C. McQuiddy taking on the mantle of office editor and business manager of the publication in 1885; the Gospel Advocate Publishing Company issuing its first quality book, the sixth edition of T.W. Brents's *Gospel Plan of Salvation* in 1889, and, in the same year, printing *Christian Hymns*, its first hymnal; the announcement by David Lipscomb and James A. Harding concerning the founding of the Nashville Bible School, which would later become David Lipscomb University; the printing in 1921 of the first volume of *Elam's Notes*, a series that would later become the *Annual Lesson Commentary* and is now known as *Companion*; the celebration of the *Gospel Advocate's* 125th anniversary in 1980, the same year Neil W. Anderson joined the company as

its vice president and general manager; and the purchase by the Anderson family of the Gospel Advocate Company in 1990, which brought an end to more than 100 years of McQuiddy family ownership of the periodical; and

WHEREAS, for 160 years, the *Gospel Advocate* has stood as a beacon of devoted Christian faith, and its dedication to its readership and the churches it serves is without peer, and it is wholly fitting that this body recognize this auspicious occasion in the publication's long and storied history; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby recognize and commend the owners and staff of the *Gospel Advocate* on the celebration of that publication's 160th anniversary, extending our best wishes for its continued success 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.