

No. R-128. House concurrent resolution commemorating the bicentennial of the Old West Church in Calais.

(H.C.R.102)

Offered by: Representative Mihaly of Calais

Whereas, the Old West Church, located on Old West Church Road in Calais and within the boundaries of the Kents Corner Historic District, dates its origin to August 18, 1823, when The First Meetinghouse Society was organized and a building committee was formed, and

Whereas, on August 30, 1823, the committee proposed the construction of a meetinghouse with dimensions of 40 by 42 feet, containing 40 five-by-six-foot pews on the first floor and 18 in the balcony, and, on October 13, 1823, timber farmer Lovell Kelton raised the building for the sum of \$23.13, and

Whereas, starting in 1828, Sunday worship services for several denominations commenced, and, for the next 35 years, the building also welcomed civic and cultural activities, and

Whereas, in 1897, following a long closure, major repairs enabled the building to reopen and once again host worshipers and guests, and

Whereas, on April 8, 1921, the Old West Church Association was incorporated as a volunteer organization to oversee the building and its use, and

Whereas, commencing in the 1950s, the Christmas Eve service has been held, and it is now a popular candlelight event heated by the warmth of other worshipers, and

Whereas, in 1972, the Maple Corner School bell was installed in the church's belfry; in 1973, the Old West Church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places; in 2018, the steeple was removed temporarily and restored; and, in 2023, the Old West Church remains a venerable and welcoming community resource to all, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the bicentennial of the Old West Church in Calais, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Old West Church Association.