**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR THE REVEREND SAMMIE T. NELSON, PASTOR OF OAK GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IN SANTEE, FOR HIS THIRTY‑FIVE YEARS OF MINISTRY AT OAK GROVE AND TO WISH HIM GOD’S RICHEST BLESSINGS AS HE CONTINUES TO SERVE THE LORD.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina General Assembly honors those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to succor the souls of men; and

Whereas, the Reverend Sammie T. Nelson, pastor of Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Santee, stands among their number as an outstanding minister of the Gospel, one much admired by colleagues, congregation, and area residents at large; and

Whereas, born in Eutawville to Deacon George and Sister Ollie Mae Nelson, the young Sammie became a faithful member of Springfield Baptist Church, where he was baptized; and

Whereas, having received his early education in the Eutawville public schools, he advanced his studies at Orangeburg‑Calhoun Technical College, Hampton University, Morris College School of Religion, and various other seminaries. He received his master’s degree from Carolina Theological Bible Institute in Reevesville; and

Whereas, Pastor Nelson and his family lived in Boston, Massachusetts, from 1955 to 1972. He was ordained as a minister of the Gospel on May 1, 1969, and to this day there is nothing he loves more than preaching that same Gospel; and

Whereas, currently pastor of Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Santee and formerly pastor of Unity Missionary Baptist Church in Eutawville, he has delivered challenging biblically based messages to his congregations for many years; and

Whereas, Pastor Nelson’s accomplishments during this time have been impressive. He has served as vice moderator and moderator of the Orangeburg‑Calhoun Baptist Association, chairman of the advisory board of the Old Ashley Baptist Association, president of the Berkeley Union, and member of the Morris College Cooperative Education Program Advisory Board; and

Whereas, under his dynamic leadership, Oak Grove has experienced much growth, including the construction of a kitchen and dining area, significant improvements to the sanctuary, and the addition of regular revival and prayer services, to the great blessing of the congregation and the surrounding community; and

Whereas, although he devotes much time to his work for the church, Pastor Nelson also finds time to spend with his family, including his beloved wife, Susan, and their two children, John and Jocelyn. Pastor and Mrs. Nelson also rejoice in God’s gift of two grandchildren, John, Jr., and Naomi Nelson; and

Whereas, noted as a humble, courageous man of Christian character, one of whom it truly may be said, “Well done, good and faithful servant,” Pastor Nelson has demonstrated to others how to be “steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.” On Sunday, March 21, 2010, he was honored at a special service held in celebration of his thirty‑fifth anniversary as pastor of Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church; and

Whereas, the General Assembly, cognizant of his many years of spiritual nourishment of the people of South Carolina, wishes to express its grateful thanks to Pastor Nelson and wish him God’s best as he continues to run the race the Lord has set before him. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, honor the Reverend Sammie T. Nelson, pastor of Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Santee, for his thirty‑five years of ministry at Oak Grove and wish him God’s richest blessings as he continues to serve the Lord.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Reverend Sammie T. Nelson.

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