**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE AND COMMEND THE HONORABLE MCKINLEY WASHINGTON, JR., ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER FIFTY YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE AS PASTOR OF EDISTO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly have learned that the Honorable McKinley Washington, Jr., pastor of Edisto Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on Edisto Island, will begin a well‑deserved retirement after fifty years of dedicated service as a minister of the Gospel to his congregation; and

Whereas, in preparation for his life’s work, Mayesville native McKinley Washington earned a bachelor of arts and bachelor of divinity at Johnson C. Smith University, followed by a master of divinity from Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary; and

Whereas, a champion of religious and personal freedom for all people under the law, Reverend Washington founded the Edisto branch of the NAACP and St. Paul Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (past president). In 2000, he was elected to the South Carolina Employment Security Commission, where he served until his retirement in 2010. In addition, he has served on numerous other boards, commissions, and committees; and

Whereas, his former colleagues in the South Carolina General Assembly will remember McKinley Washington as a dedicated and perceptive legislator, who rendered outstanding public service as a member of the House of Representatives from District 116 from his election in 1974 until his election to the South Carolina Senate in 1990, from District 45, where he served with distinction until his retirement in 2000; and

Whereas, during his years as a legislator, he always sought to balance his service in the House and Senate and his community activism with his duties as a pastor; and

Whereas, in recognition of his numerous contributions to the people of South Carolina, Reverend Washington has received honorary degrees, including an honorary doctor of humane letters from both the Medical University of South Carolina and the College of Charleston; and

Whereas, Reverend Washington finds his strongest encouragement in the support of his family, his wife, Beulah A. Jeffries; their daughter, Katrina; and their son, Michael; and

Whereas, grateful for the legacy of consistent commitment and excellence that Reverend McKinley Washington, Jr., has given in service to the citizens of this great State, the General Assembly takes great pleasure in wishing him well as he enters retirement and trusts he will find much enjoyment in the more leisurely pace of the days ahead. 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, congratulate and commend the Honorable McKinley Washington, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement after fifty years of faithful service as pastor of Edisto Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and wish him continued success and fulfillment in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Reverend McKinley Washington, Jr.

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