**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. KENNETH W. HARMON, PASTOR OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NEWBERRY, AND HIS WIFE, JOY COX HARMON, THE CHURCH ORGANIST, BOTH OF WHOM ARE RETIRING AFTER THIRTY‑TWO YEARS OF DEDICATED AND DISTINGUISHED CHRISTIAN MINISTRY AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FROM 1980 TO 2012.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that Dr. Kenneth Wesley Harmon will begin a well‑earned retirement at the end of July 2012 as pastor of First Baptist Church of Newberry where he has served as an exemplary pastor, community leader, and friend to many; and

Whereas, originally from Greenville, Ken Harmon earned a bachelor’s degree from Furman University and a master of divinity and doctor of ministry from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky; and

Whereas, under his leadership, the church sanctuary has been renovated and the educational spaces have been remodeled and built; he has also led the church on annual mission trips across the United States to help build churches, and his selfless leadership has provided discipleship training, evangelism, and support of missions in the United States and around the globe; and

Whereas, Dr. Harmon has served as moderator of the Reedy River Baptist Association and as chairman of the South Carolina Baptist Convention’s Executive Committee; and

Whereas, he has served with the Newberry County Interfaith Community Service and with a variety of community ministries, including the hospital, nursing homes, the Free Medical Clinic, local food pantries, and the pre‑release rehabilitation; and

Whereas, Joy Cox Harmon, the loving and supportive wife of Dr. Harmon, has served as church organist for thirty years at First Baptist Church of Newberry, providing spiritual enrichment through music to the ministry of Reverend Dr. Harmon; and

Whereas, Mrs. Harmon also served as a dedicated educator and teacher of Spanish at Newberry High School from 1987 to 2003; and

Whereas, married for forty‑one years, Ken and Joy Harmon are the proud parents of a daughter, Merri Christy Harmon Tolar who is married to Jeffrey Tolar, and a son, Stewart Harmon who is married to Adele Saylor Harmon, and they have been blessed with five wonderful grandchildren; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful to Dr. Kenneth W. Harmon and Mrs. Joy Cox Harmon for their significant contributions, outstanding leadership, and generosity to the Newberry community, the State of South Carolina, the nation, and the world. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Dr. Kenneth W. Harmon, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Newberry, and his wife, Joy Cox Harmon, the church organist, both of whom are retiring after thirty‑two years of dedicated and distinguished Christian ministry at First Baptist Church from 1980 to 2012.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Dr. Kenneth W. Harmon and Mrs. Joy Cox Harmon.

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