**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE DIXON‑JAMES‑RUSH‑WILLIAMS FAMILY REUNION AND TO CONGRATULATE THE FAMILY MEMBERS ON THEIR FAITHFULNESS IN RENEWING FAMILY TIES.

Whereas, in a time when mobility and displacement from family roots make family relationships more difficult to sustain, the South Carolina Senate takes great pleasure in commending the efforts of the Dixon‑James‑Rush‑Williams family to maintain family identity and fellowship in their upcoming fifteenth reunion, to be held July 25‑27, 2014, in Columbia; and

Whereas, from the bonds of slavery through Maryland and South Carolina, the roots of the matriarch of the family, Anna Dozier Dixon, were formed. Born in 1867, she married John Dixon and resided in the Manning community of Leon County, where she died in 1934; and

Whereas, all descended from Anna, the Dixon, James, Rush, and Williams branches of this laudable family stemmed from Charlie Dozier (1885), Lucinda Dozier Rush (1887), Oscar James, Sr. (1890), Tony James, Sr. (1898), Willie (James) Williams (1897), and Matthew Dixon (1902); and

Whereas, Oscar James, Sr., son of Anna Dozier Dixon, spoke about having a family reunion prior to his death (1969). In 1977, Mrs. Emily James called William (Sport) Rush to plan a meeting with each branch of the family to discuss the matter. Those who met to plan the first reunion were William Rush (president), Emily James, Wilson James, Essex James, Johnny James, Sr., Michael James, Dorothy Roberts, Herbert Rush, and Rosetta Waymon. That first meeting was held at the home of Wilson and Emily James in Tallahassee, Florida; and

Whereas, the first reunion, held July 29‑31, 1977, in Tallahassee, featured a reception, picnic, and worship service at St. Peter P.B. Church, where the Reverend George H. Wilson preached the sermon to this faith‑centered family. Some of its members served as the choir. Those honored during the first reunion were Tony James, Sr., Lucille Larkins, Rebecca James, and Bessie Williams; and

Whereas, the 2014 reunion in Columbia will be commemorated under the theme “Embracing Family, Honoring Ancestry,” as the family fondly remembers the past, humbly gives thanks for the present, and anticipates the future; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful for the legacy of the Dixon‑James‑Rush‑Williams family members and wish them much happiness as they experience the benefits of their upcoming family reunion. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Dixon‑James‑Rush‑Williams family reunion and congratulate the family members on their faithfulness in renewing family ties.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Dixon‑James‑Rush‑Williams family reunion.

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