**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR MRS. AMY JOHNSON MCLESTER FOR HER OUTSTANDING AND DEDICATED SERVICE ON THE SOUTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful for the many years that Mrs. Amy Johnson McLester has faithfully served on the Judicial Merit Selection Commission; and

Whereas, a graduate of Allen University with a bachelor's in elementary education, she launched her career as an educator in Richland County and then returned to her hometown of Aiken to teach for four years; and

Whereas, she moved to Camden to continue her teaching career and received the Outstanding Educator Award while teaching at Lugoff Elementary School; and

Whereas, when Mrs. McLester advanced to the administrative level in Kershaw County and was promoted to a principal at Lugoff Elementary, she became the first African‑American female to serve as a principal in the county; and

Whereas, she retired from Kershaw County and became an adjunct professor at Columbia College, and after her second retirement she served her community as a volunteer at Jackson School, a tutor for the after‑school program at Camden First United Methodist Church, on the Habitat for Humanity board, the Kershaw County American Red Cross board, and the Kershaw County Health Medical Center board of visitors; and

Whereas, continuing to use her expertise as an educator, she has served as a grant reader and scorer for the State Department of Education, and for several years she has served as a judge for the Teacher of the Year Program in Kershaw County; and

Whereas, appointed at its inception to the Judicial Merit Selection Commission for the State of South Carolina, which is charged with screening all judicial nominees subject to election by the General Assembly, Amy McLester was the only African‑American woman serving on the commission; and

Whereas, as a dedicated member of Camden First United Methodist Church, she has served in the choir, United Methodist Women, and Adult Sunday School Class, on numerous boards, and at present as chairman of the Thomas McLester Scholarship and on the Staff /Pastor Parish Committee; and

Whereas, she has served as an officer or committee member on the local, regional, and international levels of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., of which she is a fifty‑year life member; and

Whereas, together with her beloved husband, the late Thomas E. McLester, fondly remembered as Daddy Mack, she reared two fine sons, Tommy and Ronnie, who blessed her with three adored grandchildren: Aimee, Amber, and Kaylee McLester; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate appreciate the years of devotion that Amy McLester has given to education in the Palmetto State and her exceptional service on the Judicial Merit Selection Commission. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor Mrs. Amy Johnson McLester for her outstanding and dedicated service on the South Carolina Judicial Merit Selection Commission.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mrs. McLester.

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