**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE MT. SINAI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF GEORGETOWN COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS HISTORIC ONE HUNDRED TENTH ANNIVERSARY AND TO COMMEND THE CHURCH FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO GOD AND THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, having been founded in 1903 under the leadership of the Reverend H.H. Prioleau in the Browns Ferry community, Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church of Georgetown County will celebrate its historic one hundred tenth anniversary in 2013; and

Whereas, at its birth, church services were held under a bush tent on what is now the playground of Brown’s Ferry Elementary School. They were later moved to Oatland, where services were held in the Long House until a building was completed on the Brown’s Ferry site; and

Whereas, early pastors of the church were the Reverends E. Brown, D. Smith, H. Moses, M. McCants, M. Singleton, and L. Felder; and

Whereas, the church was moved across the road and housed on what is now the church burial ground under the leadership of the Reverend M. McCants. It was rebuilt at the present location under the leadership of the Reverend George W. Bessellieu, who served twenty‑seven years as pastor; and

Whereas, renovations on the church began under the decade‑long ministry of the Reverend Robert Gibson and were completed under the leadership of the Reverend Sidney M. Bessellieu, who served sixteen months. In addition, during the sixteen‑year pastorate of the Reverend Dr. Howard D. Davis, Sr., the church completed acquisitions, renovations, and remodeling and built the Christian Life Center; and

Whereas, on September 18, 2011, Mt. Sinai called the Reverend Justin J. Gamble, the youngest pastor in Mt. Sinai’s history, to serve as undershepherd, and during his ministry he has focused on nurturing the total person, body, soul, and spirit. With this in mind, the church has added numerous ministries and programs, with more to be initiated under the guidance of the Holy Spirit; and

Whereas, the lineage of Mt. Sinai’s founding families extends to today’s members, and the history of the church illustrates that these members and their families, as well as other congregants, have provided the community with civic, philanthropic, and religious leadership; and

Whereas, the church is committed to serving both the Kingdom of God and humanity; to providing an inspirational, rewarding religious experience for all people; and to being an agent for healing in this world by bringing reconciliation and peace through showing love for Christians and for those who are not in a relationship with God and His Son, Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, on May 4 and 5, 2013, in honor of God’s faithfulness to the church over more than a century, the grateful congregation of Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist will hold a special celebration with members, family, and friends from throughout Georgetown County and neighboring counties; and

Whereas, Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church has been a beacon of light in Georgetown County for one hundred ten years, and, God willing, will continue its godly heritage in many more years of worship and service. 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 congratulate Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church of Georgetown County on the occasion of its historic one hundred tenth anniversary and commend the church for more than a century of service to God and the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church.

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