**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH, UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS ONE HUNDRED THIRTY‑FIRST ANNIVERSARY, AND TO CONGRATULATE THE PASTOR AND CONGREGATION FOR REACHING THIS SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to pause in its deliberations to mark the significant impact that historic Macedonia Baptist Church has had on the Irmo community as the members celebrate the church’s one hundred thirty‑first anniversary on August 18, 2013; and

Whereas, founded in 1882, Macedonia Baptist Church is the oldest African‑American Baptist church in Irmo and continues in its Christian legacy of providing worship for its congregants and programs and initiatives that impact lives in the greater Irmo community; and

Whereas, established in 1882, the church called Reverend J. W. Evans as the first pastor, and founding Deacons Silas Geiger, James Hall, W. A. Smith, and Henry Wright assisted with the physical and spiritual needs of the congregation; and

Whereas, in 1909, a severe storm destroyed parts of the initial church, and in 1912, the same deacons, with the unflagging encouragement of Julia Baldwin, Idella Boozer, Ellen Hall, Jessie Hall, Amanda Smith, and Frances Wright, purchased land from Harriet Jackson on which they rebuilt Macedonia in 1913. The single‑story wooden church built on the property they purchased still stands at that location in Irmo; and

Whereas, the church’s first Jubilee Choir was established early in the church’s history, and until the 1980s, the church conducted worship services only on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. After that time, the church began holding worship services every Sunday; and

Whereas, through the years, the church flourished with such ministries as outreach to those in prison and ministries through music and Sunday school; and

Whereas, today Macedonia Baptist Church maintains its commitment to win souls for Christ and to create a community of worship, hope, peace, and love under the leadership of Pastor Charlie Butler, Jr.; and

Whereas, through challenging times, the members kept ever before themselves the shield and strength of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and this faith enabled them not only to survive, but also to accomplish so very much with so very little; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the ministry of Macedonia Baptist Church and for its meaningful contributions in the lives of residents in Irmo and beyond throughout the last one hundred thirty‑one years. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, recognize and honor Macedonia Baptist Church, upon the occasion of its one hundred thirty‑first anniversary, and congratulate the pastor and congregation for reaching this significant milestone.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Reverend Charlie Butler, Jr., interim pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church.

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