**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE JOSEPHINE BLOCKER MARTIN OF COLUMBIA ON THE OCCASION OF HER ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HER MUCH HAPPINESS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are delighted to learn that Josephine Blocker Martin of Columbia celebrated her one hundredth birthday on December 6, 2012; and

Whereas, the second of four children born to John and Janie Blocker of Montgomery, Josephine Blocker Martin came into this world on December 6, 1912, when the twentieth century was still in its youth, and she has been witness to nearly all the incredible changes and developments that have come to this nation from that time into the second decade of the twenty‑first century; and

Whereas, on October 23, 1929, the young Josephine married Willie Martin, God blessing their union with ten children, Florence, James (deceased), Thomas, Charles, Curtis, Amanda (deceased), Will, Jr., Willie Mae, Gail, and Lorraine, as well as thirty‑four grandchildren, seventy great‑grandchildren, and sixteen great‑great‑grandchildren. After fifty‑two years of marriage, Mrs. Martin’s dear Willie passed away on August 1, 1981; and

Whereas, Mrs. Martin, a resident of Columbia since her marriage, is the cement that holds her family together and is loved by many. Having touched a multitude of lives, she has earned their respect and is known to most as Mother Martin. She always puts others first, and her family and friends know they can depend on her to be there and give encouraging words in time of need; and

Whereas, this woman of faith is a living expression of the Bible’s Proverbs 31 woman. She is a dedicated member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Columbia, where she has served faithfully for fifty‑five years, regularly attends services and supports all events, and is beloved as the oldest member of her church; and

Whereas, during the elections of 2008, Josephine Martin proudly went to the polls and stood in line to cast her vote. Due to failing health, she completed her absentee ballot during the most recent election, making sure her vote reached its destination on time; and

Whereas, Mrs. Martin’s favorite Scripture is Psalm 91, her favorite hymn, “I’ve Come This Far by Faith.” Her hobbies over the years have included cooking, sewing, and working with plants. She still enjoys visits from all her family and friends; and

Whereas, to honor her at this very special time in her life, on December 22, 2012, two hundred thirty family members and friends joined with her to celebrate her one hundredth birthday at Columbia’s Bethlehem Baptist Church; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives is proud to honor this truly lovely lady in commemorating her one hundredth birthday, and the members join with her family and friends in congratulating her on reaching this extraordinary milestone. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Josephine Blocker Martin of Columbia on the occasion of her one hundredth birthday and wish her much happiness.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Josephine Blocker Martin.

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