**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR BISHOP DR. EMANUEL SPEARMAN, UPON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS FORTY‑SEVENTH YEAR OF PREACHING THE WORD OF GOD.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that Bishop Dr. Emanuel Spearman will be honored for forty‑seven years of preaching at a celebration to be held at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Cross Hill on April 13, 2014; and

Whereas, Emanuel Spearman received a high school diploma from the Greenwood County school system, and he earned a BCLS certification and certification in business administration from Piedmont Technical College. He then served as a teacher in the Greenwood County school system for twenty‑eight years, fifteen of them teaching special education; and

Whereas, Emanuel Spearman surrendered to God’s call on his life to preach the Word of God after resisting that call for five years and began preaching with the Mather Lula Turner Prayer Band; and

Whereas, he was formally licensed to preach in 1970, ordained by the Little River Association in 1975, and ordained as a bishop in 1995 at the Freewill Baptist Church in Shelby, North Carolina; and

Whereas, in 1994, Bishop Spearman earned an associate degree in religion, a bachelor’s degree in Christian work in 1996, a master of theology in 1999, and a doctor of divinity; and

Whereas, for twenty‑eight years Bishop Spearman has preached the Gospel to the faithful members of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, and in 2012, he added to that duty the pastoral care of Beulah Baptist Church in Greenwood; and

Whereas, besides the Sunday services at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Bishop Spearman conducts a Tuesday night Bible study and a Wednesday night worship service; and

Whereas, during his twenty‑eight years at Bethel, a fellowship hall has been added, the sanctuary has been remodeled, more land has been purchased, and a cemetery has been established; and

Whereas, Bishop Spearman has pastored, reopened, and assisted in founding numerous other churches in the area, and he has served his denomination on the executive board of both the South Carolina State Education and Missionary Convention and the National Baptist USA Convention, Inc.; and

Whereas, he has been honored several times as Gospel Singer of the Year in Abbeville and Greenwood counties and served the National Gospel Music Worship of America as assistant chapter representative for Greenwood, Laurens, and Saluda counties; and

Whereas, with Bishop Spearman’s encouragement, the Bethel choir has recorded two albums, and he has recorded his own album, entitled *Until I Die*; and he recently wrote and directed the production of a play, “Church Folks: Heaven or Hell”; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciates the years of faithful service that Bishop Spearman has devoted to God’s people and wish him many more years of fulfilling and productive labor in God’s Kingdom. 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 honor Bishop Dr. Emanuel Spearman, upon the anniversary of his forty‑seventh year of preaching the Word of God.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Bishop Dr. Emanuel Spearman.

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