**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE CHURCH OF GOD BY FAITH, INC. FOR HELPING OTHERS TO SEEK THE BLESSINGS OFFERED TO CHRISTIANS AND TO CONGRATULATE THE CHURCH MEMBERS EVERYWHERE UPON THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that the Church of God by Faith, Inc. will celebrate its centennial anniversary in Columbia from July 24 through July 27, 2014; and

Whereas, founders Crawford Bright, Elder John Bright, Nathaniel Scippio, and Aaron Matthews, Sr., created the Church of God by Faith, Inc. in 1914 in Jacksonville, Florida, for the purpose of glorifying God “in the beauty of holiness”; and

Whereas, the first executive secretary of the church, Hubert Steadman, served as the editor for the Sunday school literature and various inspirational publications; and

Whereas, the bonds formed through the establishment of the Church of God by Faith served to encourage believers and unify, sustain, strengthen, spiritually grow, and educate them in the Word of God in an environment where the Spirit of Christ is active; and

Whereas, the name “Church of God” gives glory to the Lord, which is due His name, and “faith” signifies the means of trust, confidence, reliability, and steadfastness that the founders placed in the unseen power of God without reservation; and

Whereas, the South Carolina District began between 1927 and 1928 when Elder Willie and Mother Emma Billups returned to Sumter from Florida, bringing the good news of the Gospel; and

Whereas, shortly after their return, Elder Billups began to evangelize under a pitched tent on the Bennet Hamilton land near Brogden, resulting in salvation and healing for many people; and

Whereas, Mother Eva Stukes was the first convert, and others were added until the tent was moved within the City of Sumter. Elder Billups and Elder Nathaniel Scippio, who came to Sumter, preached revivals and led new believers into the Kingdom; and

Whereas, under the leadership of Elder Billups, the first church was built on Beck Street in 1931, and in 1937, Elder Griffin Kemp came to serve as pastor and District Elder, adding churches in St. Paul, Davis Station, Pinewood, Atkins, Florence, and Summerton; and

Whereas, the Church of God by Faith has now extended to Lynchburg, North, Columbia, Gable, Orangeburg, and Pelion, and outreach areas include Richmond and Amelia, Virginia; and

Whereas, the leaders of the South District have included Elders Willie Billups, Griffin Kemp, Walter Rosier, Arthur Dukes, Senior Lewis, W. H. Livingston, Richard Jones, E. P. Livingston, and Mack S. Wilson, and currently the South Carolina District is led by Bishop James E. McKnight; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciates the outstanding service that Church of God by Faith has provided for ten decades to citizens of the Palmetto State and looks to hear of its continued ministry in the coming century. 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 commend the Church of God by Faith, Inc. for helping others to seek the blessings offered to Christians and congratulate the church members everywhere upon the celebration of their one hundredth anniversary.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Sarah Lundy.

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