**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. RUBY WAITERS WATTS FOR FIFTY YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO BENEDICT COLLEGE.

Whereas, it is altogether fitting and proper that the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives should pause in their deliberations to express their gratitude to Dr. Ruby Waiters Watts for her significant contributions to Benedict College; and

Whereas, after graduating from Benedict College with a degree in English, she prepared herself for her lifelong work by earning a master’s in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a doctorate in English education from the University of South Carolina; and

Whereas. Dr. Watts has served Benedict College as a professor of English, the department chair, the vice president for academic affairs, interim president, and the executive vice president; and

Whereas, she was honored as a recipient of the Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship and the Kellogg Fellowship; and

Whereas, Dr. Watts received the Outstanding Service Award from the Benedict College National Alumni Association, an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Benedict College, the Crystal Bell Award for Outstanding Contributions to Education from Bennett College, the Tribute to Women in Business and Industry Award, and the TWIN Academy Award from the YWCA; and

Whereas, dedicated to professional and community service, she has been a member of the South Carolina Committee for the Humanities; the National Council of Negro Women; Alpha Mu Kappa Honorary Society; Phi Delta Kappa Professional Educational Society; and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and she has served on the board of directors of the Columbia Urban League, the Council of Independent Colleges Deans Task Force, and the executive and advisory boards for the South Carolina Women in Higher Education Administration; and

Whereas, a woman of unshakable faith, steadfast loyalty, and dedication, Dr. Watts is a devoted member of Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church; and

Whereas, to thousands at Benedict College, she has been more than a teacher, administrator, or leader on the campus; she has been a source of strength for her colleagues, a source of guidance to her students, and a power for good in society; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is profoundly grateful for the half century of unparalleled dedication that Dr. Watts has devoted to Benedict College and to the Palmetto State. 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 Dr. Ruby Waiters Watts for fifty years of exemplary service to Benedict College.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Ruby Waiters Watts.

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