**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE MR. AND MRS. ERNEST BRAWLEY OF THE LOWER RICHLAND COMMUNITY ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR SEVENTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY AND TO EXTEND BEST WISHES FOR MANY BLESSINGS AND FULFILLMENT IN THE DAYS TO COME.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are pleased to learn that Ernest and Adelle A. Brawley of the Lower Richland community will celebrate their seventieth wedding anniversary on June 5, 2014; and

Whereas, in June 1944, when roses and daylilies were lifting their happy, colorful blooms aloft, Ernest and Adelle pledged to one another a lifetime of love and sharing as they were joined in holy wedlock in Richland County; and

Whereas, Ernest, now age ninety‑one, was born on July 2, 1922, in Richland County and retired from the VA Hospital. Born in the same county, Adelle came into this world on June 19, 1925, and the dedicated homemaker is presently eighty‑eight years of age. She has received training and various certifications through the Clemson Extension; and

Whereas, having been united in marriage, the couple found joy in the six children God gave them, Lucinda, Ernest, Jr., Rosa, Joseph, Stanley, and Paul, who have blessed their parents with twenty grandchildren and twenty‑seven great‑grandchildren; and

Whereas, lovers of the land since they were children, the Brawleys farmed their Lower Richland property for nearly seventy years, growing okra, potatoes, butter beans, and peas and drawing neighbors from throughout the county. They were known for sharing their harvest with the elderly and sick; and

Whereas, as people of faith, the Brawleys have attended St. Phillip AME Church in Eastover for more than sixty years. There, Ernest served on the steward board for more than forty years, and Adelle served on the stewardess board, usher board, and in the choir; and

Whereas, in their early years, the Brawleys were active in the Civil Rights Movement, ensuring that their daughter Lucinda was able to attend the college of her choice, Clemson University. (Lucinda became the first black woman to attend this institution.) They were also active in voter registration drives and other election activities. Ernest and Adelle have seen their children continue this legacy of engagement in civic and community discourse; and

Whereas, in addition, the Brawleys are longtime members of the NAACP, and Ernest is a member of the Masons, while Adelle is a past member of the Mount Olive Order of the Eastern Star; and

Whereas, few successes on earth crown a life as does a marriage that endures the test of time, growing stronger with each passing year; and

Whereas, through the years, Ernest Brawley has learned the veracity of Proverbs 18:22, “Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord,” and he now considers one of his greatest achievements as having had the good sense to marry his beloved Adelle; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciate the example of love and faithfulness that Ernest and Adelle Brawley have set for seven decades in their enduring marriage. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Brawley of the Lower Richland community on the occasion of their seventieth wedding anniversary and extend best wishes for many blessings and fulfillment in the days to come.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Brawley.

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