**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE MIDDLE PLACE LEARNING & INFORMATION STATION OF BAMBERG COUNTY ON ITS GRAND OPENING, TO TAKE PLACE ON MAY 4, 2013, AND TO RECOGNIZE THE HISTORIC ROLE MIDDLE PLACE SCHOOL, WHICH ONCE STOOD WHERE MIDDLE PLACE LEARNING & INFORMATION STATION NOW STANDS, HAS PLAYED IN THE EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is pleased to learn that Middle Place Learning & Information Station of Bamberg County will celebrate its grand opening on May 4, 2013; and

Whereas, in its early days, the property on which Middle Place Learning & Information Station now stands was home to Middle Place School, built around 1892; and

Whereas, a result of the efforts of the local black population to acquire a place of learning for both children and adults, this one‑room schoolhouse was constructed by the community. The children went to school there during the day, and at one time adults attended night school at Middle Place; and

Whereas, Isaac Nimmons was instrumental in building Middle Place School. He contributed financially to the project and also worked with a crew that cut lumber to be used in building the school; and

Whereas, once built, the schoolhouse soon became the center of the community and was used for all social functions, such as Sunday School; community picnics; and programs for Children’s Day, Field Day, Christmas, Easter, and the 4th of July; and

Whereas, one of the first teachers at Middle Place School was Miss Elizabeth Evelyn Wright, founder of Voorhees, a school later established in nearby Denmark. Other distinguished teachers included Mrs. Daisy Nimmons, and Mrs. Christine Richburg, the schools last teacher; and

Whereas, the County of Bamberg became the owners of the Middle Place schoolhouse when the county began paying the teachers. One of Isaac Nimmons’ descendants later purchased the schoolhouse, and the Nimmons family eventually gave it to Middle Place Learning & Information Station, Inc., a nonprofit community organization chartered in 2001 for the purpose of renovating the old schoolhouse as a community center and museum. Unfortunately, the original schoolhouse was too badly damaged to be restored; consequently, the organization has replicated the schoolhouse; and

Whereas, following in the educational path blazed by Middle Place School, Middle Place Learning & Information Station will offer services geared to seniors’ needs: a summer meal and reading program, workshops to teach self‑help skills (roofing, door repair, floor repair), and other services; and

Whereas, the Senate takes great pleasure in saluting Middle Place Learning & Information Station on the occasion of its grand opening and extends best wishes for much success in the years to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Middle Place Learning & Information Station of Bamberg County on its grand opening, to take place on May 4, 2013, and recognize the historic role Middle Place School, which once stood where Middle Place Learning & Information Station now stands, has played in the education of the people of South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Middle Place Learning & Information Station.

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