**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR MR. HAL “ONDRA” BLACK ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE MINISTRY AND TO OFFER BEST WISHES FOR A SATISFYING AND REWARDING RETIREMENT.

Whereas, after more than fifty years in ministry, Mr. Hal “Ondra” Black will retire on May 31, 2016; and

Whereas, Mr. Black was born October 10, 1936 in Waco, North Carolina. He is a graduate of East Carolina College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; and

Whereas, while attending Southwestern, Mr. Black met his wife Lillie, and upon their graduation in 1962, the couple moved to Michigan, where Mr. Black pastored three churches over a fifteen-year time period; and

Whereas, he returned to North Carolina to pastor a church for two years, and then moved to New Jersey, where he pastored Hope Baptist Church for twenty-three years; and

Whereas, while pastoring Hope Baptist Church, Mr. Black had the opportunity to serve on the State Executive Board for the New York-New Jersey Baptist Convention, and as a trustee on the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He led the church to begin a ministry to the deaf, and to reach out into the international community that was so prominent in the New York area; and

Whereas, Mr. Black’s love for all people, regardless of ethnicity, color, or nationality and his passion for the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, enabled their church to effectively reach the diverse population of the community; and

Whereas, after retiring from full-time pastoral ministry in 2002, Mr. Black moved to Spartanburg where he accepted the position of Associate Pastor and Minister to Senior Adults at Roebuck Baptist Church. He became an integral part of the church’s missions involvement, challenging the church to be more actively involved in local, national and international missions. He also served the Spartanburg County Baptist Network as the Senior Adult Ministry Coordinator; and

Whereas, in the fall of 2015, Mr. Black became the twenty-first recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Spartanburg County Baptist Network. He was also recognized by the South Carolina Baptist Convention for his more than fifty years of church ministry; and

Whereas, Mr. Black’s ministry has impacted the lives of hundreds and will last into the annals of eternity. The members of the Senate are grateful for his exceptional service to those around him and take great pleasure in wishing him all the best as he enters retirement. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor Mr. Hal “Ondra” Black on the occasion of his retirement from the ministry and offer best wishes for a satisfying and rewarding retirement.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. Hal “Ondra” Black.

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