**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE RIGHT REVEREND DR. KENNETH MONROE AT THE QUADRENNIAL CELEBRATION OF HIS MINISTRY AS PRESIDING PRELATE OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is pleased to learn that the Right Reverend Dr. Kenneth Monroe will be honored at the quadrennial celebration of his ministry as presiding prelate of the South Atlantic Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church on Saturday, June 25, 2016, in Rock Hill; and

Whereas, greatly loved by his flock, Bishop Monroe deservedly bears the reputation of an outstanding minister of the Gospel, one much admired by all who know him; and

Whereas, Bishop Monroe began his life and ministry in the small town of Red Springs, North Carolina, where he received his early education. He was baptized and became a member of the St. James African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Red Springs and was called to preach at the age of seventeen; and

Whereas, desiring to continue his education, he attended Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina, and in 1972 and 1974, respectively, he was ordained both deacon and elder. Upon receiving his bachelor’s degree in social studies from Livingstone College, he entered Duke University Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina, and graduated from this institution in 1976 with a master of divinity. Later in his ministry, he received a doctorate in ministry from Hartford Seminary in Connecticut; and

Whereas, a man of wide pastoral experience, Kenneth Monroe has served as pastor for numerous churches in North Carolina, Missouri, and Connecticut. Further, he has served the church as presiding elder of the Kansas City District, which included congregations in four states. From 2001 to 2004, he also served as presiding elder of the Nassau District of the Bahamas Island Annual Conference; and

Whereas, in 2004, he was elected the ninety‑fifth bishop in succession of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and was assigned the Western West Africa Episcopal District, which included over four hundred fifty congregations and many schools and colleges, as well as hospitals located in four countries. In 2005, he was appointed to supervise the Kentucky and Missouri annual conferences; and

Whereas, Kenneth Monroe currently serves as presiding bishop of the South Atlantic Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. He also serves as presiding bishop of the Central North Carolina and Virgin Islands annual conferences of the Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District. Other positions include service as secretary of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church Board of Bishops, chair of the Clinton College Board of Trustees in Rock Hill, and member of the Hood Theological Seminary Board of Trustees and Livingstone College Board of Trustees, both in North Carolina. He is also a life member of the NAACP; and

Whereas, on the home front, Bishop Monroe has been the proud husband of the former Sheila Wells since 1975. God has blessed the couple with three children and seven grandchildren; and

Whereas, the Senate, cognizant of his many years of ministering spiritual nourishment to the people of this State and far beyond, takes great pleasure in commending Bishop Monroe and in wishing him God’s best as he continues to run the race the Lord has set before him. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Right Reverend Dr. Kenneth Monroe at the quadrennial celebration of his ministry as presiding prelate of the South Atlantic Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Right Reverend Dr. Kenneth Monroe.

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