**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND OSCAR NEWTON FORDHAM, SR., OF CHARLESTON COUNTY FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CHARLESTON COMMUNITY THROUGH HIS DEDICATED WORK WITH THE YOUTH OF THE CITY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to honor citizens of our great State who give of their time and resources to benefit their communities, making them stronger for future generations; and

Whereas, Oscar Newton Fordham, Sr., of Charleston County, known to some as “Frizz” and to others as “Oscar,” has served the youth of the Charleston community with selfless dedication; and

Whereas, born on January 5, 1927, and reared in Charleston, he has witnessed many remarkable social changes, technological advancements, and international developments that have spanned the globe from that time into the second decade of the twenty‑first century; and

Whereas, in 1960, Mr. Fordham began working for the City of Charleston’s Recreational Department on Harmon Field, remaining there for the majority of his years as a coach and mentor, for many children the only male figure in their lives; and

Whereas, he began his service to the city when J. Palmer Gaillard, Jr., was mayor, and he continued throughout the remarkable tenure of Mayor Joseph P. Riley, working for the City of Charleston longer than Mr. Riley’s term as mayor; and

Whereas, Coach Fordham guided his players with a strong moral compass, always stressing education and following their academic progress, which included encouraging them to bring their books and homework to the park to study because no child could play sports on Harmon Field who was failing in school; and

Whereas, among his numerous honors for service to the children of Charleston, he was inducted into the South Carolina Officials Hall of Fame for the years he officiated football and basketball, and he received the Channel Five Hall of Fame award and just recently the Mungo Homes Community Builders Award. He donated the $500 that accompanied this latest award to the Sunday school of his church, Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church; and

Whereas, on May 6, 2010, the Charleston community honored Mr. Fordham by naming Harmon Field the “Oscar Fordham Athletic Complex”; and

Whereas, together with his beloved wife, the late Alice Green Fordham, he reared a fine family. They were married for sixty‑six years before her death in 2014. She and their children affectionately called him “Big Oscar”; and

Whereas, Mr. Fordham will long be remembered with honor for his work among the youth in the City of Charleston and for teaching his players with his oft‑repeated phrase, “Practice makes it perfect”; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to honor this son of South Carolina for his work with the children of Charleston, children whom he claims still make him young. 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 commend Oscar Newton Fordham, Sr., of Charleston County for his outstanding contributions to the Charleston community through his dedicated work with the youth of the city.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Oscar Newton Fordham, Sr.

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