**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE KARTHALMINA BLANCHE HARPER OF GEORGETOWN COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF HER ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HER A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND WISH HER WELL FOR THE YEARS TO COME.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are delighted to learn that Karthalmina “Kittie” Harper of Georgetown County celebrated her one hundredth birthday on January 18, 2016; and

Whereas, born on January 18, 1916, in the house that she still calls home, Ms. Harper 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, she was the youngest child and only daughter of Sallie Wescott Harper and Reverend Aaron Harper. When she was just nine months old, her father died, and her mother became the sole provider for her four children; and

Whereas, Kittie began attending Howard School at the age of four because there were no daycare centers and recalls that the girls brought in coal and the boys brought in wood to heat the classrooms in the winter, but the girls could not sit next to the boys; and

Whereas, at the age of sixteen, she graduated from Howard School, and the following September, she entered Allen University where she completed the teacher training course by the age of eighteen. She was promptly hired to teach the first grade at Howard School, sharing a room with a seventh‑grade class and teacher; and

Whereas, on the weekends and during the few summers she was not attending summer school, Ms. Harper worked at Dr. Eaton’s drug store. Eventually, summer school studies earned her a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Allen University; and

Whereas, during World War II, she took a government job in Washington, D. C., with the War Production Board, but in only twenty‑six months, the snow and homesickness drew her back to Georgetown and teaching at Howard School; and

Whereas, when Howard moved to a new facility, she continued to teach and serve part time as a secretary to the principal. Years later, she moved to the newly built J. B. Beck Elementary School where she taught second grade, and her last three years were spent teaching at Bynum Elementary School, a total of thirty‑seven years; and

Whereas, Kittie or “Aunt Kittie,” as she is affectionately known, appreciated her mother’s cooking and keeping house while she taught and reared her brother’s daughter, Vonnie, from the time she was three months old. She spent summers caring for Vonnie’s son, Vaughn, until he was sixteen and then enjoyed visits from Vaughn’s sons in the summer; and

Whereas, although a diminutive woman, standing four feet and eleven inches, she suffered from cancer at the age of ninety‑four, yet she was sick only once from the effects of chemotherapy and never lost a strand of hair; and

Whereas, retired now for forty‑four years, Ms. Harper served for several years as a volunteer at her church, Greater St. Stephen African Methodist Episcopal Church, is a member of the Janie W. Lee Women’s Missionary Society, and was honored by her pastor, Reverend Carl L. Anderson, and the members of the church. She enjoyed attending the Missionary Society’s local, regional, and state missionary meetings and even attended several national conferences; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to honor this daughter of South Carolina at the celebration of her centennial birthday and join with her family and friends in congratulating her on reaching this extraordinary milestone. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Karthalmina Blanche Harper of Georgetown County on the occasion of her one hundredth birthday and wish her a joyous birthday celebration and wish her well for the years to come.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Karthalmina Blanche Harper.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑