**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE REVEREND ROBERT LEE MCCANTS, SR., ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS PRESIDING ELDER OF THE SUMTER DISTRICT OF THE NORTHEAST SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND TO WISH HIM GOD’S RICHEST BLESSINGS AS HE CONTINUES TO SERVE THE LORD.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives has learned that the Reverend Robert Lee McCants, Sr., presiding elder of the Sumter District of the Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, will retire in 2016; and

Whereas, on September 12, 1997, at Mount Zion AME Church in Florence, the Reverend Robert Lee McCants, Sr., was appointed presiding elder of the Sumter District. A faithful and devout servant of God, Presiding Elder McCants brought to his appointment to the Sumter District of the Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference thirty‑four years of experience as a successful laborer in God’s vineyard; and

Whereas, he was ordained as an itinerant elder in 1965 by Bishop Gibbs and served as pastor of Biggers, Providence, and Trinity AME churches of the Manning District (1965‑1971) and Mount Moriah and Heyward AME churches of the Wateree District (1971‑1982). From 1982 to 1993, the newly appointed presiding elder served in the Orangeburg District of the Central Conference, and from 1993 to 1997, in the Marion District of the Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference. From 1997 to 2016, Presiding Elder McCants rendered service as the presiding elder of the Sumter District; and

Whereas, during his professional career, Presiding Elder McCants was well respected as a talented and dedicated preacher, teacher, and administrator. In addition to his service as a minister of the Gospel, he was employed as an instructor at Fleming Elementary School, Alcolu Elementary School, and Manning Middle School and later was principal of Alcolu and Elloree elementary schools. As an administrator, he also served as interim superintendent of Orangeburg School District #7 and superintendent of Marion School District #3; and

Whereas, Robert Lee McCants, Sr., considers it one of the greatest accomplishments of his life that he was able to persuade Maggie H. McCants to be his bride. She has been a strong support to him in all his labors; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives, grateful for his faithful spiritual nourishment of the people of South Carolina, takes great pleasure in wishing Reverend McCants God’s best as he enters retirement and continues to run the race the Lord has set before him. 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 honor the Reverend Robert Lee McCants, Sr., on the occasion of his retirement as presiding elder of the Sumter District of the Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and wish him God’s richest blessings as he continues to serve the Lord.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Reverend Robert Lee McCants, Sr.

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