**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR W. LAVELLE MCCRAY, PASTOR OF ROCKY MOUNT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM FOR EIGHT YEARS OF OUTSTANDING AND FAITHFUL SERVICE TO HIS CONGREGATION AND HIS GOD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to learn that Rocky Mount Missionary Baptist Church will honor Pastor W. LaVelle McCray at the eighth pastoral anniversary celebration on Sunday, April 26, 2015; and

Whereas, the son of the late Walter, Jr., and Mary Bennett McCray, he finished Wade Hampton High School and earned a bachelor’s degree in English education from Central Wesleyan College; and

Whereas, after teaching several years in the Greenville County School District, he earned a master’s degree in education administration and supervision from Clemson University. He has served Hollis Academy and J. L. Mann High Academy of Science, Mathematics and Technology as the assistant principal and as principal of East North Street Academy of Mathematics and Science. Presently, he serves as principal of Pelham Road Elementary School; and

Whereas, he was licensed to preach the Gospel in 2006, and he answered a call to pastor Rocky Mount Missionary Baptist Church in 2007, where he encourages excellence in service to God through relationships, obedience, charity, and knowledge, using those four areas to form the acronym “ROCK”; and

Whereas, active in the Enoree River Congress of Christian Education, Pastor McCray has served as the vice president, dean, director general, and teacher of the congress and currently serves as the second vice moderator of the Enoree River Association; and

Whereas, committed to his community, he is a member of the South Carolina Association of School Administrators, Pleasantburg Rotary, and Gamma Gamma Lambda Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; and

Whereas, under Pastor McCray’s leadership, Rocky Mount Missionary Baptist Church instituted a Ministry Leaders Council and periodic corporate fasting combined with prayer and hosted a praise dance workshop and a Christmas extravaganza with a disc jockey and dancing. New ministries included the Armor Bearers, Pastor’s Care, couples’ and singles’ ministries, a praise team, and an intercessory prayer ministry. The Pastor also began a positive academic encouragement activity for students who earned A’s and B’s on their report cards; and

Whereas, through Pastor McCray’s encouragement, the church added core values to their vision, which include teaching, evangelizing, assisting, and ministering, forming another acronym, TEAM, and adding to the previous one to form TEAM ROCK; and

Whereas, united in holy matrimony on July 3, 1999, to the late Pamela Scott McCray, Pastor McCray is the father of one daughter, MacKenzie McCray; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate commends Pastor McCray as “a man after God’s own heart” who loved his “wife as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it” and who is bringing up his child “in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor W. LaVelle McCray, Pastor of Rocky Mount Missionary Baptist Church, and congratulate him for eight years of outstanding and faithful service to his congregation and his God.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Pastor W. LaVelle McCray.

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