**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE REVEREND NORMAN GAMBLE, THE SENIOR PASTOR OF NEW EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH IN FLORENCE, ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES AFTER TWENTY‑FIVE YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND FOR HIS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO STRIVE HARD OUTREACH, INC.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful for the years of significant service that Reverend Norman Gamble has provided to the Williamsburg County School District and Strive Hard Outreach, Inc.; and

Whereas, the son of the late Deacon Sam and Hermener Gamble, he is a 1976 honor graduate of C. E. Murray High School in Greeleyville, and he earned a bachelor’s degree in religion and philosophy from Benedict College and a master of divinity from Colgate‑Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, New York, as well as an associate’s degree from Williamsburg Technical College in occupational technology; and

Whereas, under Reverend Gamble’s leadership, the New Ebenezer Baptist Church expanded ministry for academic enrichment through collegiate scholarship awards, specialized senior programming, and youth activities that include sports, college tours, summer camp, mentoring, and trips to historic Civil Rights’ sites in the South; and

Whereas, through the construction of the Strive Hard Educational Recreational and Enrichment Center, church membership has grown through ministry to youth and their families in the community. Strive Hard Outreach, Inc., houses a gym, classrooms, and a meeting/banquet hall with an industrial kitchen; and

Whereas, the strive‑hard model is based on the late Dr. Benjamin E. Mayes’ oft‑recited inspiration, “In whatever you do, strive to do it so well, that no man living, no man dead and no man yet to be born could do it any better.” Reverend Gamble has lived out this model before the young people whose lives he has touched; and

Whereas, called to deliver God’s Word across the country and in the Caribbean, Reverend Gamble has imparted wisdom from the Word of God in such venues as the National Baptist Convention, USA; Ephesians Baptist Church in Oakland, California; Emmanuelle Baptist Church in Boston, Massachusetts; Mt. Sinai Baptist Church in Washington, D. C., with the same passion whether speaking privately to individuals or publicly to thousands; and

Whereas, a certified member of the National Association of Parliamentarians, Reverend Gamble is deeply committed to serving his community, having touched the lives of thousands of young people across our State, not only during his quarter of a century on the school board, but also in coaching and mentoring students; and

Whereas, in addition to pastoral and school board responsibilities, he serves as the president of the South Carolina Pee Dee Association Education Department and has served as the director of the Educational Talent Search Program at Williamsburg Technical College and on President Obama’s fatherhood initiative; and

Whereas, Reverend Gamble’s exceptional community service has been honored with a presidential citation from Morris College, Benedict College’s Mamie Duckett Service Award, the National Council of Negro Women’s Living the Legacy Award, and inclusion in *Outstanding Young Men of America*; and

Whereas, he and his beloved wife, La‑Diné Williams Gamble, have reared four fine children: Ti‑Esha, Cambridge, Na‑Dya, and Malcom. They have been blessed with one grandson, Landon; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is pleased to celebrate the legacy of Reverend Gamble and his meaningful contributions to his church and his community. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Reverend Norman Gamble, the senior pastor of New Ebenezer Baptist Church in Florence, on his retirement from the Williamsburg County School District Board of Trustees after twenty‑five years of outstanding service and for his significant contributions to Strive Hard Outreach, Inc.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Reverend Norman Gamble.

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