**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE MARY FRANCES DUKES PENDARVIS OF DORCHESTER COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF HER NINETIETH BIRTHDAY, AND TO WISH HER A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MANY YEARS OF CONTINUED HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is delighted to learn that Mary Frances Dukes Pendarvis will celebrate her ninetieth birthday surrounded by family and friends on Sunday, April 2, 2017; and

Whereas, born on March 20, 1927, in the early part of the twentieth century, she 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, Mary Frances Dukes was born in Cameron, the daughter of Mary Lou Crook Dukes and Virgil Joseph Dukes, who worked on the railroad and taught her a wealth of railroad history; and

Whereas, she and her brother, Virgil Joseph Dukes, Jr., were reared in Branchville, where she attended school except two years when her family moved to Cameron to care for her grandfather. She graduated from Branchville High School in 1944 three years after they returned home; and

Whereas, while attending Columbia College, her mother’s alma mater, Frances Pendarvis Weldon, her roommate, introduced Mary Frances to her brother, John Herbert Pendarvis, Sr. If Herbert wanted a fine wife, Aunt Bessie Knight Varn had told him at a campmeeting, she was the girl he needed to marry. They were married a year after she graduated; and

Whereas, Mrs. Pendarvis earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Columbia College in 1948, commencing her career in teaching in Barnwell, and after she married on June 30, 1949, she taught at Harleyville Elementary from 1949 to 1953. She later taught school at Mims Academy in Harleyville from 1972 until 1976, where she briefly served as the interim headmistress; and

Whereas, together with her beloved husband, she reared two fine children, John H. Pendarvis, Jr., and the late Sally Lou Pendarvis. Her son blessed her with the love of two adoring grandsons, Trent and Adam, and three great-grandchildren; and

Whereas, they settled on the family’s farm in Harleyville, where she still resides, and Mrs. Pendarvis worked under the tobacco shed, actively involved and helping to keep Pendarvis Farms financially successful for three generations by diligently keeping the records, paying the bills, and meeting demanding deadlines, including the payroll, until 2012; and

Whereas, before Mr. Pendarvis’ death in July 1996, they had been happily married for forty‑seven years. They suffered the loss of their daughter, Sally Lou, in September 1994; and

Whereas, a devoted and active member of Indian Field United Methodist Church, Mrs. Pendarvis was a member of the Women’s Society of Christian Service and the Christian Fellowship Sunday School until her health curtailed her activities; and

Whereas, always considering the needs of others first, she has been a faithful member of God’s army, making a difference in every life she has touched; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to honor this daughter of South Carolina at the celebration of her ninetieth birthday, and the members 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 Mary Frances Dukes Pendarvis of Dorchester County on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday, and wish her a joyous birthday celebration and many years of continued health and happiness.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Mary Frances Dukes Pendarvis.

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