**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE YOUNG FAMILY REUNION AND TO CONGRATULATE THE FAMILY MEMBERS ON THEIR FAITHFULNESS IN RENEWING FAMILY TIES.

Whereas, in a time when mobility and displacement from family roots make family relationships more difficult to sustain, the South Carolina House of Representatives takes great pleasure in commending the efforts of the Young family to maintain family identity and fellowship in their upcoming fiftieth reunion; and

Whereas, the Young family has been a pillar in the Hampton County community for more than one hundred fifty years. In 1966, Artharee Fennell, daughter of Emma Young Fennell and Eddie Fennell, collaborated with Embra and Earline Young, Norris Young, William Fennell, Sr., and Elizabeth Bostick to conceptualize the first Young family reunion. The decision was made to celebrate on Mother’s Day 1967; and

Whereas, the family met for the occasion under the old oak tree planted by Patience Young, the matriarch. The oak tree has served as the symbol of strength for the family with its many branches creating a whole that forever binds together the family. It honors the past and provides the foundation for future generations to stand upon; and

Whereas, in 2009, the celebration was moved to a larger space to allow the reunion to grow into a community gathering, with all welcome to join in the festivities. Starting on Friday night with a fish fry and concluding on Sunday with dinner following church service at Jerusalem Baptist Church, the annual event has become one of the oldest inclusive celebrations in the area where the family’s mantra “I love my family”, coined by LeRon Young, can be heard repeatedly; and

Whereas, the Young family was started by Reverend James Young and Elizabeth Patience Singleton Young. They had eleven children: Emma Young Fennell; Addie Young Brown; Helen Young Johnson; Carrie Young McGirth; Ella Young; Anna Young; Janie Young Myers; Emory Young; Henry Young; Rudolph Young; and Bishop Young; and

Whereas, the family has spread their influence across a wide range of careers, from the family’s first professional beautician (Almetia Capers), to the first union representative (Embra Young, Sr.), the first supervisor at Westinghouse (Norris Young), the first tailor (Daisy Bell Fennell), the first family entrepreneurs (Charlie Mae Smalls Grant and Harold Smalls), the first geo‑physicist (Lillian Flakes), the first black gemologist to work at Morray Jewelers (Corretta Young Orr), the first lawyer (Korey Williams), the first magistrate (Mandrile Young), the first police officer (Chappelle Johnson), and first railroad engineer (Elonzo Young). The family has also broken into the entertainment world with a professional musician (LeRon Young), a magazine publisher (Travis Alford), and two radio show hosts (Ricardo Rice and Charles Brown). The Young family is represented in the Army, Navy, and Air Force and continues to build upon the foundations laid by their ancestors to achieve their dreams; and

Whereas, the family reveres education, collaboration, and cooperation. The children and grandchildren have followed the examples of their predecessors and become educators, lawyers, public officials, including Hampton County Auditor Teresa Hill Williams, entrepreneurs, military personnel, biomedical specialists, real estate agents, tax consultants, and other various positions; and

Whereas, continuing to celebrate their family and accomplishments, the members of the Young family still share the values and lessons learned with the children of the family to carry on their tradition of service and faith in God; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the legacy of the Young family members and wish them much happiness as they experience the benefits of their upcoming fiftieth family reunion. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Young family reunion and congratulate the family members on their faithfulness in renewing family ties.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to members of the Young family.

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