**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR THE LEVI PEARSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR ITS COMMENDABLE EFFORTS IN PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION TO STUDENTS IN CLARENDON AND SUMTER COUNTIES AND TO WISH THE ORGANIZATION THE GREATEST SUCCESS AT ITS ANNUAL LEVI PEARSON BLACK TIE SCHOLARSHIP GALA.

Whereas, the Levi Pearson Scholarship Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization, states its laudable mission as a commitment to help shape and mold the youths of Clarendon and Sumter Counties into sound citizens and people of good character and high integrity by means of higher education; and

Whereas, the vision of this organization is to provide financial assistance to college‑bound seniors to pursue higher education, thereby enhancing their talents and developing leadership skills to make a positive impact in their community; and

Whereas, on June 9, 2018, the Levi Pearson Scholarship Fund will host its sixth annual Levi Pearson Black Tie Scholarship Gala. The purpose of this banquet is to help raise money in order to provide scholarships for worthy youths in Clarendon and Sumter counties; and

Whereas, the banquet is typically held the second week of May to commemorate the landmark case of Briggs v. Elliott, argued in the Supreme Court on May 17, 1954. This case is the inspiration behind the naming of the scholarship fund. Four siblings of the Pearson family made a major impact in the support and encouragement of the first lawsuit of Levi Pearson v. Clarendon County School Board. This case led to the Briggs v. Elliott case, which ultimately resulted in the Brown v. Board of Education proceedings, a vitally important ruling that alleviated a tragic injustice; and

Whereas, each year, two scholarships are awarded along with honoring a person in the community who has given selflessly to the betterment of the community. This award is named the Levi Pearson Hall of Fame Award; and

Whereas, to date, the scholarship fund has awarded over ten thousand dollars to deserving students in Sumter and Clarendon Counties. The organization fervently believes that every child’s dream to attend college should become a reality; and

Whereas, the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina are grateful for the legacy of altruism and commitment to education and the betterment of the lives of our youths which the Levi Pearson Scholarship Fund has exhibited and wish them unparalleled success at the sixth annual Levi Pearson Black Tie Scholarship Gala. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor the Levi Pearson Scholarship Fund for its commendable efforts in providing scholarships for higher education to students in Clarendon and Sumter Counties and wish the organization the greatest success at its annual Levi Pearson Black Tie Scholarship Gala.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Levi Pearson Scholarship Fund.

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