**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE ROSE ELLA “SUDIE” DUKES COOPER BRIGHT ON THE OCCASION OF HER ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HER A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MUCH HAPPINESS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are delighted to learn that Rose Ella “Sudie” Dukes Cooper Bright will celebrate her one hundredth birthday on June 11, 2017; and

Whereas, Sudie was born on June 11, 1917, a daughter of Joe Dukes and Cora Ellen Mouzon. She was the younger sister of Eugene Dukes, who drowned at the age of seventeen; and

Whereas, her earliest schooling occurred in Clarendon County, South Carolina. Later, the family moved to Gourdine in Williamsburg County, South Carolina, where Sudie continued her education for as long as the family was able to bear the cost. She was a good student and an outstanding basketball player; and

Whereas, Sudie first married Pencile Cooper, then later Moses Bright. She is the mother of eight: Cora Ellen Cooper Moore, Margaret Bright Reid, Blanche Bright McFadden, Helen Bright Belcher, Josephine Bright Whack, Elijah Bright, Wendell Bright, and Dorthenia Bright Williams. She also has seventeen grandchildren and a number of great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; and

Whereas, a dedicated mother, she taught what she knew, encouraging her offspring to work hard, be generous, do right by others, be respectful of themselves and others, never give up, and always lean on the Lord. In her words, “God will never fail you”; and

Whereas, at an early age, Sudie joined Wilson United Methodist Church and served as a member of the choir. Her commitment to God is ever-strong, as she remains a member even today; and

Whereas, Sudie worked in the fields and in the homes of white families as a housekeeper and laundress. Later in life, from the age of sixty to seventy, she worked for the Williamsburg County Senior Citizens Agency; and

Whereas, known by everyone in the community, she has proven to be a loyal friend to many. Her flower garden was always a showstopper, and she enjoyed the beauty of her front yard and took pleasure in the admiration of those who would stop to compliment her handiwork; and

Whereas, Sudie has the inner strength and spirit of a warrior woman; and

Whereas, the Senate is proud to honor this daughter of South Carolina at the celebration of her one hundredth birthday, and the members join with her family and friends in congratulating her on reaching this important life milestone. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Rose Ella “Sudie” Dukes Cooper Bright on the occasion of her one hundredth birthday and wish her a joyous birthday celebration and much happiness in the days ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Rose Ella “Sudie” Dukes Cooper Bright.

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