**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE SAINT PHILLIP AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF EASTOVER ON THE OCCASION OF ITS HISTORIC ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY‑FIFTH ANNIVERSARY, AND COMMEND THE CHURCH FOR ALMOST TWO CENTURIES OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, on June 6, 2010, Saint Phillip African Methodist Episcopal Church of Eastover will celebrate its historic one hundred seventy‑fifth anniversary; and

Whereas, in 1835, Saint Phillip African Methodist Episcopal Church was built by a group of Christians who a number of years earlier, assembled under the shelter of oak trees with a nearby well to worship God; and

Whereas, since its inception, Saint Phillip African Methodist Episcopal Church has held continuous worship services and offers many ministries that bring the Gospel of the grace of God to the world; and

Whereas, on April 27, 1981, the church’s sanctuary and its contents and much of a new structure that was under construction was damaged by fire; and

Whereas, by the grace of God, on December 13, 1981, six and one‑half months after the tragic loss, the Right Reverend Frank Madison Reid, Jr., presiding prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District, dedicated the church’s new sanctuary and educational complex; and

Whereas, standing on the faith and strength of its early pastors and members, Saint Phillip African Methodist Episcopal Church’s present congregation continues to preach and teach the word of God to men and women around the world; and

Whereas, Saint Phillip African Methodist Episcopal Church has been a beacon of light in Eastover for one hundred seventy‑five years, and God willing, will continue its spiritual heritage for many more years of worship service. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and congratulate Saint Phillip African Methodist Episcopal Church of Eastover on the occasion of its historic one hundred seventy‑fifth anniversary, and commend the church for almost two centuries of service to the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Saint Phillip African Methodist Episcopal Church.

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