**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR THE REVEREND DR. JAMES S. COOPER, PASTOR OF PINE GROVE AME CHURCH IN COLUMBIA, FOR HIS FIFTY YEARS OF PASTORAL MINISTRY AND TO WISH HIM GOD’S RICHEST BLESSINGS AS HE CONTINUES TO SERVE THE LORD.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina Senate honors those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to succor the souls of men; and

Whereas, the Reverend Dr. James S. Cooper, pastor of Pine Grove AME Church in Columbia, stands among their number as an outstanding minister of the Gospel, one much admired by colleagues, congregation, and area residents at large; and

Whereas, in preparation for his life’s work, this Georgia native earned his bachelor’s degree at Morris Brown College in Atlanta; a master of divinity from Interdenominational Theological Center & Turner Theological Seminary, also in Atlanta; and a master’s degree in religious education from Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey; and

Whereas, pursuing further education, Dr. Cooper received a master of military science from Command General Staff College, a two‑quarter certificate of clinical pastoral education from Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, and a doctorate from San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, California; and

Whereas, he began preaching at the age of thirteen and later was ordained as an elder and as a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church; and

Whereas, in January 1973, he received a direct appointment and was commissioned a captain in the United States Army Chaplain Corps. Additional pastoral training followed, including completion of the chaplain officer basic and advanced courses of the United States Army Chaplain Center and School and the Command & General Staff College; and

Whereas, while serving in the U.S. Army, he received its highest peacetime award, the Legion of Merit, among numerous other honors; and

Whereas, in January 2003, Dr. Cooper, then garrison chaplain at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, retired from active service with the rank of chaplain (colonel), having given thirty‑one years of service to God and country; and

Whereas, presently the pastor of Pine Grove AME Church in Columbia, he is the devoted husband of the former Mirriam L. Roberts. Together, they raised a fine family of three children, Lenton Douglas, James Simon II, and Annette Evelyn Etheredge, who have given their parents the joy of nine grandchildren; and

Whereas, believing a pastor should be actively involved in his community, James Cooper is a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Western Star Lodge #65 F&M Prince Hall Masonry, and the NAACP; and

Whereas, the Senate, cognizant of his many years of spiritual nourishment of the people of South Carolina, wishes to express its grateful thanks to Dr. Cooper and wish him God’s best as he continues to run the race the Lord has set before him. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, honor the Reverend James S. Cooper, pastor of Pine Grove AME Church in Columbia, for his fifty years of pastoral ministry and wish him God’s richest blessings as he continues to serve the Lord.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Reverend Dr. James S. Cooper.

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