**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE REVEREND DR. JAMES WILLIAM SANDERS, SR., UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY AS PASTOR OF BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN GAFFNEY.

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

Whereas, the Reverend Dr. James William Sanders, Sr., pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Gaffney, stands among their number as an outstanding minister of the Gospel, one much admired in his roles as pastor, teacher, and preacher; and

Whereas, the young Reverend Sanders prepared himself for the Gospel ministry by taking his bachelor’s degree at Benedict College in Columbia and his master’s degree at A&T University in Greensboro, North Carolina, after which he pursued further studies at the University of South Carolina and Starks Theological Seminary of Columbia. In addition, a doctor of divinity degree was bestowed on Reverend Sanders by Friendship College in Rock Hill and a doctor of humane letters degree by Morris College in Sumter; and

Whereas, only nineteen years of age when he was called to pastor Bethel Baptist Church in Gaffney, he has served its congregation as pastor for the past sixty years, a rare achievement; and

Whereas, for thirty‑eight years, he has also pastored Island Creek Baptist Church; and

Whereas, actively involved in his denomination, Reverend Sanders served as moderator of the Thickety Mountain Baptist Association for thirty‑eight years and is now moderator emeritus. He is a former trustee of Morris College, presently serves as vice chairman of the trustees of South Carolina State University, and is president of the Cherokee County Black Ministerial Alliance; and

Whereas, not one to neglect support of his community, Reverend Sanders serves as chairman of the Regional Area Agency on Aging, covering six counties, and is a past member of numerous boards and organizations. Recently, he was appointed by Governor Mark Sanford to the board of directors of the South Carolina Public Service Authority. As an educator, he is the former vice principal of Sims High School in Union; and

Whereas, over the years, Reverend Sanders has received many honors and awards for his work, among them the Order of the Palmetto from the State of South Carolina, the Omega Psi Phi Citizen of the Year award, and a listing in Who’s Who in America Among Black Leaders; and

Whereas, Reverend Sanders considers one of his crowning achievements as having had the good sense to marry his beloved Rubye and with her to raise three wonderful children, Jewette S. Patterson, Reverend J.W. Sanders, Jr., and Ruzlin S. Smith, who have given their parents the joy of three grandsons; and

Whereas, to honor Reverend Sanders’ many years of ministerial service, Bethel Baptist Church will hold a celebratory banquet and special worship service on April 4‑5, 2009. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Reverend Dr. James William Sanders, Sr., upon the occasion of his sixtieth anniversary as pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Gaffney.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Reverend Dr. James William Sanders, Sr.

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