**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND MR. JOHNNIE THOMPSON OF WALTERBORO FOR HIS TWENTY‑EIGHT YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AS A MEMBER OF WALTERBORO CITY COUNCIL, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, Mr. Johnnie Thompson of Walterboro for twenty‑eight years served as a member of Walterboro City Council with dignity and excellence; and

Whereas, his honesty, intelligence, friendliness, and high commitment to those he served drew admiration from colleagues, as well as from the people of Walterboro at large; and

Whereas, during his tenure on Walterboro City Council, Mr. Thompson distinguished himself not only as a member of that body but also as mayor pro tem for four years, he being the first African American to serve in that position; and

Whereas, Mr. Thompson brought much preparation and experience with him to his work as a councilman. He earned an associate degree in public services, with a major in criminal justice, at Palmer College in Charleston, with further education following at Rice Business College in that same city, at Clemson University, and at many U.S. military service schools over a period of twenty years of active duty and ten years of inactive reserve duty; and

Whereas, in 1948, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and began a military career that took him to posts in Japan, Korea, the United States, West Germany, and other overseas locations. During his years of service, he compiled an extensive list of honors, including the Army of Occupation Medal with Germany and Japan clasps, National Defense Service Medal with 1st OLC, U.S. Army Commendation, and Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation Badge; and

Whereas, continuing his military involvement, Mr. Thompson is a charter member and current president of the Hiram E. Mann chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Incorporated, which honors the accomplishments of African Americans who participated in air crew, ground crew, and operations support training in the Army Air Corps during World War II. In recognition of his service as one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, he received the Order of the Palmetto, the State of South Carolina’s highest civilian award; and

Whereas, in addition, Johnnie Thompson has been active in numerous other community organizations, such as the American Legion and Mt. Olive Baptist Church, where he serves as a trustee, and for four years he served as Walterboro/Colleton County airport commissioner. Among his many honors is the 2002 Walterboro‑Colleton Chamber of Commerce Humanitarian Award; and

Whereas, Mr. Thompson, taking his responsibilities with the seriousness they deserve, labored diligently as a member of Walterboro City Council for the welfare of that city’s people, and he has proven himself a friend to all citizens of this great State over many years. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and commend Mr. Johnnie Thompson of Walterboro for his twenty‑eight years of dedicated service as a member of Walterboro City Council, and wish him much happiness and fulfillment in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mr. Johnnie Thompson.

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