**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE MRS. THELMA CELESTIA GROOMS SHULER OF HOLLY HILL ON THE OCCASION OF HER ONE HUNDRED THIRD BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HER A JOYOUS YEAR AHEAD AND CONTINUED HAPPINESS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are delighted to learn that Mrs. Thelma Celestia Grooms Shuler of Holly Hill celebrated her one hundred third birthday on March 1, 2010; and

Whereas, Mrs. Shuler, daughter of Thomas Pate Grooms and Mary Rulaney Austin Grooms, was born on March 1, 1907, when the twentieth century was still in its youth, and she has been witness to many of the incredible changes and developments that have come to this nation from that time into the twenty‑first century; and

Whereas, a native of Legare (now known as Cross) in Berkeley County, Thelma was the eldest in a fine family of four daughters and two sons. After she had completed her earliest education in Cross, her parents allowed her to board with an uncle in Summerville, where she graduated from Summerville High School in 1925. Furthering her education at Winthrop College, she earned certification to teach primary school and taught at Cross Elementary for two years; and

Whereas, in October 1926, she married Thomas Gregg Shuler of Holly Hill, and the couple made their home there. To this union were born two daughters, Kathryn Murray Whetsell and Helen Henry Simmons, who have given their parents the joy of six grandchildren, seven great‑grandchildren, and seven great‑great‑grandchildren; and

Whereas, affectionately called “Mrs. Thelma” by many, Mrs. Shuler has had a varied working career. She organized and opened the first lunchroom at Holly Hill High School and worked there in the lunchroom and school library; and

Whereas, from 1939 to 1942, she worked as a secretary for Santee Cooper when the Santee Dam was being built. When the project was completed, she was on the first boat to go through the locks. She also worked at Bulls Drug Store in Holly Hill as a teletype operator; and

Whereas, at the start of World War II, she began employment at the Charleston Navy Yard and remained there until the end of the war. She and her husband opened a country store on their property just outside of Holly Hill and operated it for seventeen years, after which Mrs. Shuler retired; and

Whereas, a devout Christian woman, she was an ever faithful congregant of Holly Hill United Methodist Church. She was involved in all the Sunday School and missionary activities until her recent decline in health. This decline has prevented her church attendance, but her Bible reading and personal faith in God continue strong; and

Whereas, she attributes her longevity to good genes, hard work, and an undying faith in God to guide her through; and

Whereas, Mrs. Shuler enjoys watching the Atlanta Braves baseball games on television and reading the *Post and Courier* and relishes visits from family and friends; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives is proud to honor this truly lovely lady at the celebration of her one hundred third birthday and joins with her legion of friends and well‑wishers to congratulate her on reaching this extraordinary milestone. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Mrs. Thelma Celestia Grooms Shuler of Holly Hill on the occasion of her one hundred third birthday and wish her a joyous year ahead and continued happiness.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Mrs. Thelma Shuler.

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