**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE GREATER ST. MARK AME CHURCH OF HEMINGWAY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS HISTORIC ONE HUNDRED TWENTY‑FIFTH ANNIVERSARY, AND TO COMMEND THE CHURCH FOR A CENTURY AND A QUARTER OF SERVICE TO GOD AND THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, having been founded in 1885, Greater St. Mark AME Church of Hemingway will celebrate its historic one hundred twenty‑fifth anniversary in 2010; and

Whereas, one and a quarter centuries ago, Greater St. Mark AME Church of Hemingway was organized for the worship of Almighty God. By faith, families in the community joined together to elect church trustees, who in turn acquired two acres of land on behalf of the congregation. On this land, a small one‑room board structure was built for the members to begin worship; and

Whereas, in 1922, the church decided to build new facilities. Persisting through hardships and difficult times, the congregation saw the new church completed in 1927. It, too, was a one‑room building with pot‑bellied heaters and oil lamps; and

Whereas, remodeling took place in the 1960s, and in 1969 once again the members voted to build a new facility. Completed in 1975, the new church offered all modern conveniences and five Sunday School rooms, a business office, pastor’s study, kitchen, fellowship hall, four restrooms, storage, and a spacious sanctuary. In 1994, to accommodate a growing ministry, the church added an extension; and

Whereas, most recently, in 2005 the cornerstone was laid on the Carl L. Anderson Life Center, Greater St. Mark’s new church fellowship hall; and

Whereas, standing on the faith and strength of its early pastors and members, Greater St. Mark AME Church’s present congregation “presses toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14), continuing to preach and teach the Word of God; and

Whereas, Greater St. Mark AME Church has been a beacon of light and a community worship center in the Hemingway area for one hundred twenty‑five years, and, God willing, will continue its godly heritage in many more years of worship and service. 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 congratulate Greater St. Mark AME Church of Hemingway on the occasion of its historic one hundred twenty‑fifth anniversary, and commend the church for a century and a quarter of service to God and the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Reverend Arthur William Ford, pastor, on behalf of the congregation of Greater St. Mark AME Church.

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