**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE EUNICE THERESA INEZ SHERARD STEPHENS OF AIKEN COUNTY ON HER ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY, AND TO WISH HER A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND CONTINUED HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are delighted to learn that Eunice Theresa Inez Sherard Stephens will celebrate her one hundredth birthday on June 28, 2010; and

Whereas, Mrs. Stephens was born on June 28, 1910, just a decade after the dawn of the twentieth century, and she has been witness to nearly all the incredible changes and developments that have come to this nation from that time until the twenty‑first century; and

Whereas, the youngest daughter of John G. Sherard and Martha Harrison, she had nine siblings, yet admits to being spoiled rotten as a child and having a fairly carefree childhood on a farm that was known for hard work; and

Whereas, after primary school, Eunice matriculated to Morris College in Sumter to complete her high school education. During her junior year, she had the fortunate experience of meeting her future husband, Augustus Thirlow Stephens, at a train station on the way to school; and

Whereas, upon completion of her junior year, Eunice transferred to Benedict College, where she completed both her high school and college education; and

Whereas, in 1935, she officially shed her adolescence and became an adult by graduating from college, marrying Reverend Augustus T. Stephens, and securing her first job as a teacher at Storm Branch Academy in Aiken County, where her husband had been named the headmaster; and

Whereas, during their time at Storm Branch Academy, she and her husband were blessed with three children, Augustus Thirlow, Jr., Carolyn LaTrelle, and Lemeul Cecil. In 1944, the family moved to Laurens where Augustus became a teacher at Sanders High School and Pastor of Springfield Baptist Church and Eunice taught first grade at Reedy Grove Primary School, Laurens County; and

Whereas, after becoming pregnant with her fourth child, Eunice was forced to quit teaching, as women who were pregnant were not permitted to continue to teach. Instead, she set up a school lunch program out of the church parsonage for students who attended a school that had recently burned; and

Whereas, in 1953, she opened and operated one of the first preschools of the State, and in 1954, the family returned to Aiken County after Reverend Stephens received an offer to become principal of Jefferson Elementary School in Bath; and

Whereas, ever committed to the education of all citizens, young and old, she earned a master’s degree at South Carolina State College in 1964 and taught reading to community adults and helped all who sought her assistance; and

Whereas, upon her retirement and after over forty‑two years of teaching, she opened a full‑service florist in Aiken. She operated this successful business for over twenty years; and

Whereas, a devoted wife and mother, she shared a loving marriage with her husband for fifty‑six years and reared her children with great affection; and

Whereas, a faithful contributor to Benedict College, she was the eldest in attendance at its Founders’ Day activities held last year; and

Whereas, an avid gardener, she spends her time tending to her flowers and caring for her chickens and also enjoys traveling to faraway places; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives is proud to honor this truly lovely lady at the celebration of her one hundredth birthday and joins with her family and friends in congratulating her on reaching this extraordinary milestone. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, congratulate Eunice Theresa Inez Sherard Stephens of Aiken County on her one hundredth birthday, and wish her a joyous birthday celebration and continued health and happiness.

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