**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. RONALD D. BARTON OF GREENVILLE COUNTY UPON THE OCCASION OF CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS AS THE MINISTER OF SHADY OAK BAPTIST CHURCH, AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM FOR HIS FAITHFUL SERVICE TO HIS CONGREGATION, COMMUNITY, AND GOD.

Whereas, it is fitting for the House of Representatives to pause in its deliberations to commend the significant work of ministers who care for the needs of their congregations and who teach the Word of God and uphold its influence in the community; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that Dr. Ronald D. Barton will celebrate twenty years of ministering the Gospel of Jesus Christ at Shady Grove Baptist Church on July 11, 2010; and

Whereas, born in Greenville as the seventh child of Mary Louise and Willis Barton, Ronald Barton graduated from Berea High School, and at the age of sixteen he began preaching at Shady Oak Baptist, his home church, where he was licensed to preach; and

Whereas, he earned a bachelor’s degree in social science from Morris College and completed a bachelor of divinity graduating *magna cum laude* from Morris College School of Religion; and

Whereas, he became the pastor of Central Baptist Church in Columbia and remained there for seven years before accepting a call to return to Shady Oak Baptist Church as pastor in 1990; and

Whereas, under his leadership, the church has expanded its ministry in the community to include a completely functional food bank and a clothes’ closet and has dedicated a new sanctuary; and

Whereas, the church recently launched a new ministry called Total Empowerment Community Development Corporation which is developing a reading program and other academic assistance for youth and a free medical clinic for the church community; and

Whereas, devoted to the needs of his neighbor, Dr. Barton serves as the vice chair on the board of the Urban League, on the Multicultural Diversity Advisory Board at Greenville Technical College, and on the Family Self‑Sufficiency Task Force of the Greenville Housing Authority; and

Whereas, he serves his denomination as the second vice moderator of the Reedy River Baptist Association, on the executive board and the budget committee of the state’s Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention, as chairman elect of the evangelism board of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, and as a charter member of the Kingdom Association of Covenant Pastors; and

Whereas, he was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity from Morris College and was recently appointed to the board of Trustees for Morris College; and

Whereas, with his life centered on two principles, “Always move from mediocrity to excellence,” and “Stay focused on God, and all of life will be clearer,” he has made significant contributions to the citizens of the Palmetto State, and the members of the House of Representatives are grateful for his contributions. 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 honor Dr. Ronald D. Barton of Greenville County upon the occasion of celebrating twenty years as the minister of Shady Oak Baptist Church, and congratulate him for his faithful service to his congregation, community, and God.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Ronald D. Barton.

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