**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE WAYSIDE CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA UPON THE OCCASION OF THE DEDICATION OF ITS NEW SANCTUARY ON SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2009.

Whereas, the Senate is pleased to hear that on Sunday, April 26, 2009, Wayside Chapel Baptist Church in Florence, South Carolina will dedicate its new sanctuary; and

Whereas, House Representative Terry Alexander is the current Pastor of the church and at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 26, 2009, there will be a dedication ceremony presided over by Reverend Darrell Jackson; and

Whereas, in December 2007, Wayside began the erection of its new sanctuary next door to the current fellowship hall. The new sanctuary was completed in 2009 and on April 5, 2009, the congregation held a special ceremonial march from the old sanctuary to the newly erected sanctuary; and

Whereas, after more than 104 years in existence, Wayside Chapel Baptist Church has established its place in history as one of Florence, South Carolina’s oldest churches; and

Whereas, originally founded in 1905, a group of strong believers who were share-croppers and plantation workers on the McCall and Camlin farms of northern Florence County were weary of walking several miles to church and so they organized Wayside Chapel; and

Whereas, in 1906, a small two-story hall was built on land purchased from Mr. M. McCall for the sum of forty dollars; and

Whereas, in 1918, members decided to build a church building, and the McCall family donated materials to construct the building and in 1920, the building was completed. That same year the church was dedicated by the officials of the Pee Dee Baptist Association and it was thereafter known officially as the Wayside Chapel Baptist Church; and

Whereas, in 1935, the church building was destroyed by fire and once again the McCall family was instrumental in the plight of the church. An exchange of property was made for one dollar and the family again donated materials to build a new building. A new church was completed in 1936; and

Whereas, in 1968, a new brick church was constructed and as the church progressed, numerous organizations were added to include a gospel choir, pulpit aide club, the willing workers auxiliary, spiritual gospel choir, celestial choir, and trustee board; and

Whereas, in 2003, Reverend Terry Alexander was installed as the pastor of Wayside and under his leadership, the church has continued to grow both spiritually and physically; and

Whereas, based on the name from its inception, Wayside Chapel Baptist Church has been a refuge to the weary travelers seeking salvation, hope, and lifting up the name of Christ, and as the Pastor always says, “Thanks God and So It Is”; and

Whereas, the Senate takes great pleasure in congratulating Wayside Chapel Baptist Church on the completion of its new sanctuary. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Wayside Chapel Baptist Church upon the occasion of the dedication of its new sanctuary on Sunday, April 26, 2009.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Wayside Chapel Baptist Church.

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