**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE BRIDGE LOCATED ON HIGHWAY 137, BETWEEN NORRIS AND LIBERTY, THAT CROSSES THE TWELVE MILE RIVER, IN HONOR OF DR. VIRGIL MITCHELL, AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS AT THE BRIDGE THAT CONTAIN THE WORDS “DR. VIRGIL MITCHELL BRIDGE”.

Whereas, on October 21, 2006, Dr. Virgil Mitchell passed away at the age of ninety-two; and

Whereas, Dr. Mitchell was a spiritual leader and a devoted alumnus of Southern Wesleyan University. He was named the institution’s Alumnus of the Century in 1996 before his death; and

Whereas, Mitchell was born on a farm in Six Mile in 1914 and was the second of nine children. He graduated from Six Mile High School in 1934 and attended college at Wesleyan Methodist College, now named Southern Wesleyan University. In 1943 he completed his Th.B. degree and he further received a Doctor of Divinity degree from Houghton College in Houghton, N.Y. in 1964. In 1998 he was granted an honorary doctorate by Southern Wesleyan University; and

Whereas, Dr. Mitchell married Mary Parks, his college sweetheart, in March 1937 and they shared sixty-nine years of marriage and together they raised three children; and

Whereas, he began his ministry in 1934 and served as pastor and General Secretary of Extension and Evangelism. Mitchell was later elected as president of Southern Wesleyan University in 1968, but was elected general superintendent of the Wesleyan Church before he could take office. He served as general superintendent, the denomination’s highest office, for twenty-one years; and

Whereas, after his retirement in 1984 at age 70, Mitchell was appointed as assistant to the president and chaplain of Southern Wesleyan and served in this capacity until 1994. He also served as a distinguished member of the Southern Wesleyan University Board of Trustees and designated as the first trustee emeritus in 1984; and

Whereas, following his retirement he was actively involved in Southern Wesleyan University. He was named Trustee Emeritus in 1984 and Alumnus of the Year in 1996; and

Whereas, Dr. Mitchell took an active role on the centennial planning committee of the university and had been present for celebrations of the 50th and 75th anniversaries; and

Whereas, it would be fitting and proper to recognize the accomplishments of this great man of God and son of South Carolina by naming the bridge located on Highway 137, between Norris and Liberty, that crosses the Twelve Mile River, in his honor. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the General Assembly, by this resolution, request that the Department of Transportation name the bridge located on Highway 137, between Norris and Liberty, that crosses the Twelve Mile River, in honor of Dr. Virgil Mitchell, and erect appropriate markers or signs at the bridge that contain the words “Dr. Virgil Mitchell Bridge”.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Department of Transportation.

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