**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE INTERCHANGE AND BRIDGE LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF INTERSTATE HIGHWAY 385 AND NEW HARRISON BRIDGE ROAD IN GREENVILLE COUNTY IN HONOR OF DR. ROBERT E. DENNIS, AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS AT THE INTERCHANGE AND BRIDGE LOCATED AT THIS INTERSECTION THAT CONTAIN THE WORDS “DR. ROBERT E. DENNIS INTERCHANGE” AND “DR. ROBERT E. DENNIS BRIDGE”.

Whereas, Dr. Robert E. Dennis, pastor of Cedar Grove Baptist Church in Simpsonville, stands among their number as an outstanding minister of the Gospel and servant to his community, one much admired by colleagues, his congregation, and area residents at large; and

Whereas, having professed faith in Christ at the age of twelve, the young Robert was baptized and accorded membership in the Reedy Fork Baptist Church, which later licensed him to preach; and

Whereas, upon graduation from Bryson High School in Fountain Inn, Robert Dennis attended the Greenville Extension of the American Baptist Theological Seminary and later received his bachelor of theology degree from Morris College in Sumter. In 1990, Benedict College bestowed upon him an honorary doctor of divinity degree; and

Whereas, after becoming pastor of the Holly Springs Baptist Church in 1968, Pastor Dennis was ordained by the Reedy River Baptist Association, and in 1969 he assumed the pastorate of the Cedar Grove Baptist Church in Simpsonville, where he has served for over forty years; and

Whereas, believing a pastor should be involved in his community beyond the walls of the church, Pastor Dennis also serves as a board member for the Greenville County Department of Social Services, instructor for the Greenville Extension of the Morris College School of Religion, vice president of the board for South Greenville Mental Health, and board member for the Golden Strip YMCA, among numerous other worthy endeavors; and

Whereas, Pastor Dennis has won numerous awards for his work within the community, including the Cooper White Humanitarian Award from the Greenville County Human Relations Commission; the Silver Crescent, presented by Governor Jim Hodges; and a listing among the *Greenville News* New Millennium’s 500 Most Influential Individuals in the Greenville area; and

Whereas, although he devotes much time to his work for church and community, Robert Dennis also finds time to spend with his family, including his beloved wife, Mary, and their two children, Elaine McCrary and Caroline Neely, who have given their parents the joy of several grandchildren; 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 and interchange at the intersection of Interstate Highway 385 and New Harrison Bridge Road in Greenville County in his honor. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the General Assembly request that the Department of Transportation name the interchange located at the intersection of Interstate Highway 385 and New Harrison Bridge Road in Greenville County “Dr. Robert E. Dennis Interchange” and name the bridge located at this interchange “Dr. Robert E. Dennis Bridge”, and erect markers or signs at the interchange and bridge that appropriately read “Dr. Robert E. Dennis Interchange” and “Dr. Robert E. Dennis Bridge”.

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

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