**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR REVEREND IRVIN MIDDLETON, SR., OF BEAUFORT COUNTY, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS PASTOR OF FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH, AFTER MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE TO HIS CONGREGATION AND HIS GOD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that after more than thirty years of dedication and devotion as pastor of Friendship Baptist Church Reverend Irvin Middleton, Sr., will begin his much‑deserved retirement at a dinner to be held in his honor on March 5, 2011, surrounded by family and friends; and

Whereas, born in Burton on October 13, 1922, the son of the late Richard Middleton and Sadie Burns Middleton Gardner, he left formal education in the ninth grade to assist his mother financially after the death of his father, and at the age of seventeen, he trusted Christ for his eternal salvation and became a faithful member of the Third Macedonia Baptist Church; and

Whereas, he served his nation in the United States Army during World War II with valor and distinction in France and Germany from 1942 to 1946, for which he was awarded the celebrated Bronze Star for bravery; and

Whereas, in 1946, he began his employ in civil service at the Parris Island Marine Corp Recruit Depot and retired as a carpenter supervisor after thirty‑seven years of dedicated service; and

Whereas, on June 13, 1948, he married his beloved Kathryn Garvin, a union which is still blossoming after more than sixty‑two years, and together they reared three fine children, Dora Jiles, Aremetha Middleton Gadson, and Irvin Middleton, Jr., who blessed them with three adoring grandchildren and five great‑grandchildren; and

Whereas, he served on the usher board at Third Macedonia Baptist Church and later as church secretary for seventeen years; in 1950, he was ordained a deacon, becoming chairman of the deacon board two years later and overseeing construction of a new church building completed in 1975; and

Whereas, in 1978, with a desire and a divine calling from the Lord, Irvin Middleton became an ordained minister and began his ministry as pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church on St. Helena Island, and after almost a year he accepted a call to pastor his home church, Third Macedonia Church; and

Whereas, months later, he became the pastor of Friendship Baptist Church on Coosaw Island and pastored both congregations alternating Sunday services for fifteen years; and

Whereas, he retired on December 31, 2010, after serving Friendship Baptist Church for over thirty years, and he continues as Chairman of the Executive Board of District 3 of the Old Ashley Baptist Association, consisting of some forty‑one churches; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the faithful ministry of Reverend Irvin Middleton., Sr., to the congregation of Friendship Baptist Church for more than thirty years and for his example and teaching that through Jesus, all things are possible. 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 Reverend Irvin Middleton, Sr., of Beaufort County, upon the occasion of his retirement as pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, after more than thirty years of faithful service to his congregation and his God.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Reverend Irvin Middleton, Sr.

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