**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE DR. JOSEPH KENYON EAST OF LEXINGTON COUNTY, ONE OF SOUTH CAROLINA’S MOST DISTINGUISHED EDUCATORS, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS NINETY‑EIGHTH BIRTHDAY, AND TO WISH HIM A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND CONTINUED HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are delighted to learn that Dr. Joseph Kenyon East of Lexington County will celebrate his ninety‑eighth birthday on February 16, 2011; and

Whereas, Dr. East, a native of Lineville, Alabama, came into this world on February 16, 1913, in the early part of the twentieth century, and he has been witness to many of the incredible changes and developments that have come to this nation from that time into the twenty‑first century; and

Whereas, beginning a career devoted to education in 1936, he served at various times as teacher, principal, and director of instruction for the Horry County Schools; superintendent of public schools in Cottageville and Blacksburg; and supervisor of audiovisual education and director of adult education at the South Carolina Department of Education. In 1984, he was appointed by the U.S. Department of Education as a consultant for eight Southeastern states; and

Whereas, Dr. East spearheaded several educational firsts in the Palmetto State. In 1950, he established South Carolina’s first tax‑supported public‑school kindergarten; some years later, he organized the first statewide library of free films for public schools. In addition, he was the prime mover in establishing Coastal Carolina College, the first tax‑supported junior college in South Carolina. Now called Coastal Carolina University, a four‑year institution, the school presently has over 8,700 students enrolled; and

Whereas, under his leadership, South Carolina’s adult‑education program experienced the greatest growth in its history. Because of his experience and success in the field, Dr. East has testified before the United States House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on behalf of adult education; and

Whereas, in recognition of his distinguished service, the University of South Carolina presented him an honorary doctorate of education in 1992; and

Whereas, Dr. East has received numerous other awards for his service to education, including the 1987 American Institute for Public Service Jefferson Award; the Order of the Palmetto, the highest award granted to a civilian by the State of South Carolina; the 1983 Outstanding State Department of Education Award for unselfish and distinguished leadership; and the 1974 Outstanding Service Award for the National Council of State Directors of Education; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives is pleased to honor Dr. East at the celebration of his ninety‑eighth birthday and joins with his family and friends in congratulating him on reaching this extraordinary milestone. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Dr. Joseph Kenyon East of Lexington County, one of South Carolina’s most distinguished educators, on the occasion of his ninety‑eighth birthday, and wish him a joyous birthday celebration and continued health and happiness.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Dr. Joseph Kenyon East.

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