**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE HONORABLE ZULIA MENA GARCIA FOR HER COMMITMENT TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND FOR VISITING SOUTH CAROLINA TO SPEAK AT BENEDICT COLLEGE ON THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

Whereas, the Palmetto State was deeply honored by a visit from Honorable Zulia Mena Garcia of Colombia, who spoke at the Benedict College and the United Nationals Academic Impact (UNAI) Human Rights Series at Benedict College in Columbia; and

Whereas, trained as a social worker, she has dedicated the past thirty‑five years of her life to the struggle for Afro‑Colombian rights; and

Whereas, Zulia Mena Garcia made history in 1994 when she was elected the first Afro‑Colombian female member of the Congress of the Republic of Colombia, where she served for four years; and

Whereas, during her congressional tenure, she played a key role in developing new legislation regarding Afro‑Colombian land rights following ratification of Colombia’s new constitution in 1991; and

Whereas, she continues to serve as a community organizer and social worker in Chocó, the poorest state in Colombia; and

Whereas, her participation in the Benedict College/UNAI human rights lecture series on June 14‑16, 2011, brought her knowledgeable perspective to the topic “A New Look at Human Rights Violations in the Colombian Pacific”, and greatly enriched the experience of those attending the lecture to the benefit of the greater South Carolina community. 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 commend the Honorable Zulia Mena Garcia for her commitment to the advancement of human rights, and for visiting South Carolina to speak at Benedict College on the issue of human rights.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Zulia Mena Garcia.

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