**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. HELENA IN BEAUFORT ON THE OCCASION OF ITS HISTORIC THREE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY, AND TO COMMEND THE CHURCH FOR THREE CENTURIES OF SERVICE TO GOD AND THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, having been founded in 1712, the Parish Church of St. Helena in Beaufort will celebrate its historic three hundredth anniversary in 2012; and

Whereas, one of the oldest churches in North America, the Parish Church of St. Helena in Beaufort was established three hundred years ago as a colonial parish of the Church of England on the outer reaches of the British Empire; and

Whereas, as the established church in the Province of Carolina and the Crown Colony of South Carolina, the Parish Church of St. Helena’s vestry served as the local government from the earliest settlement of the vast area known as St. Helena’s Parish until the American Revolution; and

Whereas, from its earliest days, the Parish Church of St. Helena ministered to the spiritual needs of all, guarded freedoms, administered the laws, conducted elections, and levied and collected taxes for care of the poor; and

Whereas, Thomas Heyward, Jr., a son of the Parish Church of St. Helena, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union; and

Whereas, to assist in the establishment of Beaufort College, now the University of South Carolina Beaufort, the Parish Church of St. Helena provided the new school twenty acres of land in 1801; and

Whereas, the Parish Church of St. Helena was a leader in the Great Beaufort Revival of 1831, in which the people of this community discovered, renewed, and proclaimed their faith and inspired scores of its members to enter the ministry, including the first missionary bishop to China; and

Whereas, having remained steadfast in faith for three centuries, the church has survived war, revolution, civil conflict, economic depression, and pestilence. Standing on the faith and strength of its early pastors and members, the Parish Church of St. Helena’s present congregation “presses toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14), continuing to preach and teach the Word of God; and

Whereas, the Parish Church of St. Helena has been a beacon of light and a community worship center in Beaufort for three hundred years, and, God willing, will continue its godly heritage in many more years of worship and service. 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 congratulate the Parish Church of St. Helena on the occasion of its historic three hundredth anniversary, and commend the church for three centuries of service to God and the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Parish Church of St. Helena.

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