**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE ESSIE T. BANKS OF McCORMICK COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF HER ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY, AND TO WISH HER A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MANY YEARS OF CONTINUED HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are delighted to learn that Essie T. Banks of McCormick County will celebrate her one hundredth birthday on June 30, 2012; and

Whereas, born in Mount Carmel in McCormick County in 1912, she is the daughter of the late Gary and Lula Millen Lee and grew up on McAllister Place and Bell’s Creek; and

Whereas, born in 1912, in the early part of the twentieth century, she has been witness to nearly all the remarkable social changes, technological advancements, and international developments that have spanned the globe from that time into the second decade of the twenty‑first century and actively participated in the marches with the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Reverend Jesse Jackson in Alabama; and

Whereas, she married her beloved husband, Josh Banks, on New Year’s Day, 1937, and together they reared eight fine children, who blessed them with fifty‑four grandchildren and nearly too many great‑grandchildren to count; and

Whereas, a member of Pleasant Rock Church, formerly Rockford AME Church, where she served as president of the senior choir, president of the missionary board, and member of the stewardess board, she is affectionately known as the “Mother of the Church”; and

Whereas, while raising children and working, she returned to school and at the age of 57 received both her driver’s license and her high school diploma; and

Whereas, she had a strong passion for cooking and took this passion into her professional life when she worked as a cafeteria worker for the McCormick County Board of Education until she retired in 1978; and

Whereas, she completed voter‑registration classes and spent vast amounts of time traveling McCormick County, assisting her fellow citizens through registering them to vote; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to honor this daughter of South Carolina at the celebration of her centennial birthday and join with her family and friends in congratulating her 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 Essie T. Banks of McCormick County on the occasion of her one hundredth birthday, and wish her a joyous birthday celebration and many years of continued health and happiness.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Essie T. Banks on June 30, 2012, her centennial birthday.

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