**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND DONELLA BROWN WILSON OF RICHLAND COUNTY FOR HER OUTSTANDING PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the members of the South Carolina Senate honor individuals who freely give of their time and resources for the good of others; and

Whereas, Donella Brown Wilson, retired educator and mentor, has contributed valuable public and community service to the citizens of the Palmetto State and is thereby worthy of praise; and

Whereas, born May 24, 1909, in Fort Motte, she grew up on the land where her great-grandparents once had worked as slaves and where her grandmother taught her simple prayers and read to her from the Bible. From these early experiences, Mrs. Wilson realized she wanted to teach others to read and, beginning with the Sears & Roebuck catalog, she taught herself to read by the light of an oil lamp; and

Whereas, in preparation for a long and fruitful teaching career, Donella Brown Wilson earned her teaching credentials from Allen University in 1933. She retired in 1971 after achieving her goal of teaching children in the mostly rural counties of South Carolina to read; and

Whereas, in 1931, young Donella married Reverend John R. Wilson, Sr., also an educator. The couple purchased a home in the Waverley community of Columbia, where both remained active for more than fifty years in community, civic, and religious affairs as teachers, mentors, and advisors to countless people throughout the Palmetto State and beyond; and

Whereas, Mrs. Wilson cherishes the fact that she has voted in every election since 1947, and she continues to promote the importance of voting. She is a life member of the NAACP, South Carolina Education Association, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and Union Baptist Church. She is also past national superintendent in the United Order of Tents, Inc.; and

Whereas, at nearly one hundred two, Donella Brown Wilson is a much sought‑after consultant on matters pertaining to the history and development of the Waverley community and City of Columbia, as well as a chronicler of personal family histories; and

Whereas, the members of the Senate recognize that the success of the State of South Carolina, the strength of its communities, and the vitality of American society as a whole depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of individuals like Donella Brown Wilson, who use their talents and resources to serve others. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and commend Donella Brown Wilson of Richland County for her outstanding public and community service to the people of South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Donella Brown Wilson.

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