**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THELMA WILLIAMS, MOTHER OF OUR DEAR FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE, SENATOR KENT WILLIAMS, UPON THE OCCASION OF HER EIGHTY‑FIFTH BIRTHDAY, AND TO WISH HER A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MANY MORE YEARS OF CONTINUED HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to learn that Thelma Williams will reach the milestone of her eighty‑fifth birthday on April 9, 2011; and

Whereas, one of fifteen children, she was born on April 9, 1926, to Veronica Thomas and Armstrong Howard, and she grew up on the family farm with no formal education but taught herself to read, write, and calculate arithmetic; and

Whereas, in 1957, she married widower James S. Williams and became an immediate mother to his four children, James Harold, Mary Lynn, John William, and Earl; together they had six more children: Gerald, Armstrong, Kent who is our esteemed colleague, Bruce, Alvin, and Mary L.; and

Whereas, by precept and practice, she stressed for her children the importance of education and reading, instilled in them faith in God and the importance of regular church attendance, and taught them to respect their neighbors and to manage their finances honorably; and

Whereas, when her beloved husband died in 1985, she took the responsibility of running the family farm and mastered not only the agricultural aspects of the farm, but also the financial and business aspects; and

Whereas, a proud grandmother and great‑grandmother, Thelma Williams continues to exercise regularly, taking strolls around the farm daily, and she loves to travel, especially to our nation’s capital and to New York City; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful for the lasting legacy of this gracious lady and outstanding native daughter of South Carolina, who loves her God, her family, and her friends and whose life has enriched so many in her community and in the Palmetto State. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Thelma Williams, mother of our dear friend and colleague, Senator Kent Williams, upon the occasion of her eighty‑fifth birthday, and wish her a joyous birthday celebration and many more years of continued health and happiness.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Thelma Williams.

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