**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE OLD MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH OF THE EPWORTH COMMUNITY IN GREENWOOD COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS HISTORIC ONE HUNDRED FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY AND TO COMMEND THE CHURCH FOR A CENTURY AND A HALF OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, having been founded in 1861, Old Mount Zion Baptist Church will celebrate its historic one hundred fiftieth anniversary in 2011; and

Whereas, the young church, located in a densely populated area with an agrarian economy, had its inception under a brush arbor and obtained its first land for building as a gift from the Kinard family. Through additional support, the Kinards also enabled the church to expand its facilities to accommodate a place for a school and burial grounds; and

Whereas, the first permanent church building, which was destroyed by fire, was rebuilt in 1880. Old Mount Zion experienced some challenging times during these early days, but it continued to thrive under the leadership of its first pastor, Reverend Ned Starks. The church saw the birthing of area sister congregations because of its growth and success, these sister churches being easier to reach for those who lived some distance from the mother church; and

Whereas, over the years, Old Mount Zion enjoyed further expansion. A deacon board, missionary society, church school for grades one through eight, various choirs, Vacation Bible School, and a multitude of other ministries were added to the church’s rapidly growing program; and

Whereas, standing on the faith and strength of its early pastors and members, Old Mount Zion Baptist Church’s present congregation “press[es] toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14), continuing to preach and teach the unadulterated Word of God and serving its own, as well as the community, through such ministries as Sunday School, the church health ministry, a Good News Club in one of the public schools of Greenwood County, and a church educational scholarship fund; and

Whereas, Old Mount Zion Baptist Church has been a beacon of light in the Epworth community of Greenwood County for one hundred fifty years, and, God willing, led by its current senior pastor, Danny R. Webb, will continue its godly heritage in many more years of worship and service. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize Old Mount Zion Baptist Church of Greenwood County on the occasion of its historic one hundred fiftieth anniversary and commend the church for a century and a half of service to the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Reverend Danny R. Webb on behalf of the congregation of Old Mount Zion Baptist Church.

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