**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH OF AYNOR ON THE OCCASION OF ITS HISTORIC TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY, AND TO COMMEND THE CHURCH FOR TWO CENTURIES OF SERVICE TO GOD AND THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, having been founded in 1812, Salem Baptist Church of Aynor celebrated its historic two hundredth anniversary in 2012; and

Whereas, two centuries ago, Salem Baptist Church was organized for the worship of Almighty God. Through all the challenges of the years, Salem Baptist has continued to worship and serve the Lord; and

Whereas, the original church was built on the east side of S.C. 319, where the older portion of the cemetery is now located. A building was later erected across the highway and was used until 1954. The congregation, having outgrown the building, tore down the older facility and began constructing a larger one. When completed, the new building seated three hundred and included a twenty‑five‑room educational department; and

Whereas, in 1974, the congregation built a parsonage and in 1977 added a fellowship hall. In 1985, the sanctuary was renovated. In addition, over the years many other improvements have been introduced, such as a church bus and baby grand piano; and

Whereas, as part of its service to the Lord, Salem Baptist has several ministries, among them its video ministry for the elderly and shut‑ins, as well as a daycare ministry that continues to grow and exert a great influence on the children it nurtures; and

Whereas, on Sunday, October 21, 2012, the grateful congregation of Salem Baptist held a special commemorative service to celebrate God’s faithfulness to the church, both spiritually and materially, over two centuries; and

Whereas, standing on the faith and strength of its early pastors and members, Salem Baptist Church’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, Salem Baptist Church has been a beacon of light and a community worship center in the Conway‑Aynor area for two hundred years, and, God willing, will continue that tradition for many more years of worship and service. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and congratulate Salem Baptist Church of Aynor on the occasion of its historic two hundredth anniversary, and commend the church for a century of service to God and the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Pastor Ken Herrington of Salem Baptist Church.

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