**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE GERLEAN PEARSON OF CLARENDON COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF HER SEVENTY‑FIFTH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HER A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MUCH HAPPINESS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are delighted to learn that Gerlean Pearson of Clarendon County will celebrate her seventy‑fifth birthday on March 23, 2013; and

Whereas, born on March 23, 1938, and a proud citizen of Clarendon County all her life, Gerlean Pearson was the seventh of eight children born to Thomas Bennett, Sr., and Ebenezer Clark Bennett. Gerlean came into this world when the twentieth century was still in its youth, and she has been witness to nearly all the incredible changes and developments that have come to this nation from that time into the twenty‑first century; and

Whereas, Gerlean’s mother passed away when Gerlean was only two years old. Her father later married Letha Lewis Bennett, and they had two children together. Gerlean gained a wonderful stepmother and also five stepsiblings through her father’s second marriage; and

Whereas, the young Gerlean, having been educated in the public schools of Clarendon County, married Ferdinand Pearson, Sr., in 1956. God blessed the couple with a fine family of nine children, Audrey Hilton, Cynthia Levy, Curtis Pearson, Maggie Pearson, Patricia Gaters, Spencer Pearson, Paralee Dozier, Ferdinand Pearson, Jr., and William Pearson, six of whom still reside in Clarendon County. When her husband died in 1978, Gerlean raised the children by herself; and

Whereas, Gerlean boasts eleven grandchildren, Laquisha Levy, Michael Pearson, Doane Pearson, Terrill Pearson, Latavia Pearson, Curtis Pearson, Jr., Benjamin Singleton, Levan Gaters, Jr., Shantay Gaters, Jadia Riley, and Juan Dozier; and

Whereas, as a dedicated mother and a molder of character for her nine children, eleven grandchildren, and three great‑grandchildren, Gerlean Pearson is loved and respected by all who know her. She has served her family and community with grace as a homemaker, caretaker, maid, field laborer, childcare provider, church mother, and missionary; and

Whereas, this giving lady is a very humble, soft‑spoken, yet powerful Christian woman and a prayer warrior of strong impact. She is a devoted member of the Church of God by Faith in Davis Station; and

Whereas, to honor Mrs. Pearson at this very special time in her life, her family and friends will join with her to celebrate her seventy‑fifth birthday and the wonderful memories she has created over her long lifetime on Saturday, March 30, 2013; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives is proud to honor this truly lovely lady at the celebration of her seventy‑fifth birthday, and the members 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 Gerlean Pearson of Clarendon County on the occasion of her seventy‑fifth birthday and wish her a joyous birthday celebration and much happiness in the days ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Gerlean Pearson.

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