COMMITTEE REPORT

April 30, 2013

**H. 4051**

Introduced by Rep. Hosey

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Read the first time April 30, 2013.

**THE COMMITTEE ON**

**INVITATIONS AND MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS**

To whom was referred a Concurrent Resolution (H. 4051) to request that the Department of Transportation name the portion of East Flat Street in the Town of Allendale from its intersection with United States Highway 301, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass:

LISTON D. BARFIELD for Committee.

**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE PORTION OF EAST FLAT STREET IN THE TOWN OF ALLENDALE FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH UNITED STATES HIGHWAY 301 TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH THE CAMPUS PERIMETER OF ALLENDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL “FRANK D. SOLOMON MEMORIAL WAY”, AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS ALONG THIS PORTION OF HIGHWAY THAT CONTAIN THE WORDS “FRANK D. SOLOMON MEMORIAL WAY”.

Whereas, in September, 1989, a committee under the visionary leadership of Frank D. Solomon, local community activist and organizer, approached Dr. Dill Gamble, Jr., Superintendent of Allendale County schools with a request to acquire a vacant one room historical building. That one room building had been previously used as a classroom and a band room at the former segregated all‑black Allendale County Training High School in the late 1940s and early 1950s; and

Whereas, the building was sold to the committee for one dollar and was moved from the campus of the Allendale Elementary/Middle School to its present location on a property next to and owned by the Parent Co‑op Center at the end of East Flat Street; and

Whereas, on April 26, 1990, that one room building and the committee were incorporated by the South Carolina Secretary of State as the Allendale County African‑American Culture Center. Subsequently, the culture center was granted Federal Tax exempt status as a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization. Several years later, the two properties (the Parent Co‑op Center and the cultural center) would merge under a single board as the Allendale County African‑American Culture Center (ACAACC); and

Whereas, the mission of the ACAACC is to provide educational, cultural, and social experiences and activities related to the African‑American heritage and experience. These experiences and activities are designed to educate, enlighten, and empower the target population and the community at large; and

Whereas, Frank Solomon brought acclaim to the Town of Allendale in his first published book entitled “*A Hell of a Life*” chronicling his early life in Allendale growing up in a segregated society and his early work in the Civil Rights Movement. That book was later adapted into a stage play by the New York City Tooks Production Company entitled “*Flat Street Sa*’*Day Night*”. In the summer of 1985, “Flat Street Sa’Day Night” ran for several weeks as a New York City Off‑Broadway event. Over one hundred Allendale residents traveled to New York City meeting up with hundreds of former Allendale residents living in New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and other areas to see the play and honor our native son. Later that summer, the Tooks Brothers brought the entire New York production to Allendale in a spectacular sold-out two-night event at the Allendale Primary School Auditorium; and

Whereas, Frank Solomon again brought acclaim to the Town of Allendale in his second and last published book entitled “*Fighting Two Wars*”. This book told the stories of Allendale County African‑American soldiers who served in the segregated U. S. Military during World War II and the Korean Conflict. “*Fighting Two Wars*” also was adapted into a stage play of the same name by the New York City Tooks Production Company and was performed by New York actors in a spectacular sold‑out two-night event in February, 1996, at the Allendale Elementary School Gymnasium; and

Whereas, it would be fitting and proper to honor the rich legacy of Mr. Frank Solomon by naming a portion of Flat Street in the Town of Allendale in his honor. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the General Assembly request that the Department of Transportation name the portion of East Flat Street in the Town of Allendale from its intersection with United States Highway 301 to its intersection with the campus perimeter of Allendale Elementary School “Frank D. Solomon Memorial Way”, and erect appropriate markers or signs along this portion of highway that contain the words “Frank D. Solomon Memorial Way”.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Department of Transportation.

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