**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE PEARLE WEEKS STOVEKEN UPON THE OCCASION OF HER ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY, AND TO WISH HER A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MANY YEARS OF CONTINUED HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are delighted to learn that Pearle Stoveken will celebrate her centennial birthday surrounded by family and friends on May 18, 2013; and

Whereas, born on May 18, 1913, in the early part of the twentieth century, she has witnessed many remarkable social changes, technological advancements, and international developments that have spanned the globe from that time into the second decade of the twenty‑first century; and

Whereas, the daughter of Lilly and Henry Mallard Weeks, Pearle Weeks Stoveken was born in Round O in Colleton County and graduated from Walterboro High School; and

Whereas, upon graduation, she moved to Charleston to study cosmetology. At the end of her studies she moved to Columbia and married her first husband, Rutledge Hill. Together they had three children, two of whom died at an early age; and

Whereas, Pearle Stoveken had a long and prosperous career in cosmetology working in a number of beauty salons until she opened her own business, the Ritz Beauty Shop, originally located in downtown Columbia near its namesake, the Ritz Theater. As the business grew, she moved the business to the Jerome Hotel and then the Wade Hampton Hotel until her retirement in 1963; and

Whereas, on June 24, 1961, she married her beloved husband, Robert E. Stoveken, whom she met on a blind date arranged by her future step‑daughter, Dina Stoveken DiMaria. Together they reared her daughter, Jennifer Hill Stoveken Barfield. She is blessed with five delightful grandchildren and seven great‑grandchildren; and

Whereas, she was a faithful member of Arsenal Hill Presbyterian Church and Rose Hill Presbyterian Church, while living in Columbia, Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Camden, and Westminster Presbyterian Church in Sumter, where she has served in many capacities over the years to include Sunday school teacher and circle chair; and

Whereas, in 1962, the family moved to Camden, where she was a member of the Camden Garden Club, several bridge and canasta clubs, and the Camden Cotillion Club; and

Whereas, in 1994, Mrs. Stoveken chose to move into a retirement home and relocated to Covenant Place in Sumter. While in Sumter, she volunteered at the Shepherd Center and enjoyed china painting and traveling with her beloved niece, Mildred Brown; and

Whereas, she returned to Camden in 2008 and now resides in the Pinedale Retirement Center and continues to attend Bethesda Presbyterian Church where she is a circle member; and

Whereas, she loves to travel and garden and is an avid supporter of Epworth Children’s Home. The death of her first born child Gilbert Rutledge Hill from cancer at eighteen months of age led to her lifelong support of the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are pleased to honor this daughter of South Carolina at the celebration of her one hundredth birthday and to join with her family and friends in congratulating her on reaching this extraordinary milestone. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, congratulate Pearle Weeks Stoveken, upon the occasion of her one hundredth birthday, and wish her a joyous birthday celebration and many years of continued health and happiness.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Pearle Weeks Stoveken.

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