**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE SAMUEL GIST OF SPARTANBURG ON THE OCCASION OF HIS ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HIM MUCH HAPPINESS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are delighted to learn that Samuel Gist of Spartanburg will celebrate his one hundredth birthday on April 8, 2014; and

Whereas, the son of Dave and Ida Gist of Union County, Samuel Gist was born on April 8, 1914, and grew up in Pacolet in the early part of the twentieth century, and he has been witness to nearly all the remarkable social changes, technological advancements, and international developments that have transformed the world from that time into the second decade of the twenty‑first century; and

Whereas, heeding the call of his country, this African‑American veteran of World War II served during the conflict at the U.S. Navy Weapons Station in Fallbrook, California; and

Whereas, in 1945, having completed his military service, the young Sam returned to his home in Spartanburg and his lovely wife, Reatha. The couple had married in 1935, a union that lasted for seventy years until her passing in 2005, and God blessed the couple with a fine son, Preston. Since those early days, the family has been enlarged with the addition of a delightful grandson, Preston, Jr.; and

Whereas, Sam Gist believes in personal involvement with the community and demonstrates that conviction through membership in Majority Baptist Church, where he has served as a deacon for sixty years. He also has been a member of the Masons in Spartanburg for more than fifty years; and

Whereas, during his fifty‑year career, Sam served as chauffeur to the Hodge and Foil families of Spartanburg, both prominent in the community. Until about a month ago, he still drove himself to church, where he parked in a special space reserved just for him. While he has set aside his gardening, Sam continues to do his own housecleaning and cooking and is an avid baseball fan; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives is pleased to honor Sam Gist at the celebration of his centennial birthday, and the members join with his family and friends in congratulating him 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 Samuel Gist of Spartanburg on the occasion of his one hundredth birthday and wish him much happiness in the days ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Samuel Gist.

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