**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND THE HONORABLE LESTER P. BRANHAM, JR., FOR HIS COMMITTED SERVICE TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE CITIZENS OF DISTRICT 61 IN FLORENCE AND MARION COUNTIES AND TO WISH HIM FULFILLMENT AND SUCCESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, for twelve years, the Honorable Lester P. Branham, Jr., has represented the citizens of House District 61 in Florence and Marion counties with faithfulness in the House of Representatives of this great State; and

Whereas, a retired minister, Lester P. Branham, Jr., earned his bachelor’s degree at Wake Forest University in 1955, followed by a degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1958; and

Whereas, during his years in the House of Representatives, Lester P. Branham has proven his worth as a member of the Education and Public Works Committee; and

Whereas, Representative Branham firmly believes in active participation in the community, and his convictions have led him to serve that community and beyond in various ways. Past positions include membership on the board for Florence County School District Three (1979‑1988; board chairman, 1982‑1988); and

Whereas, other past or present positions include member of the South Carolina Baptist Convention General Board (1967‑1972; chairman, executive committee, 1971‑72); trustee for Furman University (1973‑1979); board member for the Baptist Healthcare System (1986‑; board chairman, 1993‑); director for Palmetto Health (1996‑); chairman, Palmetto Health Board of Directors (1996‑2000; presently chairman emeritus); and

Whereas, at home, he is the proud husband of the former Dorothy Ruth Hayes, whom he wed on August 10, 1956. God blessed the couple with two children, Lester P. Branham III and Maria Ruth Matthews. Representative Branham draws strength from their strong support; and

Whereas, on the occasion of his departure from the House of Representatives, his House colleagues, grateful for Lester P. Branham’s committed service to this body and the people of District 61, extend warmest good wishes for much contentment in the new challenges he looks forward to in the days to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, commend the Honorable Lester P. Branham, Jr., for his committed service to the South Carolina House of Representatives and the citizens of District 61 in Florence and Marion counties and wish him fulfillment and success in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to our distinguished colleague, the Honorable Lester P. Branham, Jr.

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