**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE HAWKINS FAMILY REUNION AND TO CONGRATULATE THE FAMILY MEMBERS ON THEIR FAITHFULNESS IN RENEWING FAMILY TIES.

Whereas, in a time when mobility and displacement from family roots make family relationships more difficult to sustain, the South Carolina House of Representatives takes great pleasure in commending the efforts of the Hawkins family to maintain family identity and fellowship in their upcoming reunion; and

Whereas, the family’s foundation rests in Whitford and Lula Hawkins, who were blessed with twelve children, Cassie Carter, Estelle Hawkins, Joshua Hawkins, Nathan Hawkins, Doris Baker, Lorene Hawkins, Mable Robinson, Ethel Langston, John Hawkins, Vivian Nowlin, Virginia Cussac, and Alvenia Nowlin; and

Whereas, in time, the couple had a legacy of sixty‑three grandchildren as well as a host of great‑ and great‑great grandchildren; and

Whereas, born in Florence County in the 1800s, Whitford Hawkins was a farmer, community leader, musician, and hunter. His father, Henry Hawkins, was reared in Upstate South Carolina, and Whitford’s mother’s name was Hannah Hawkins. Henry Hawkins had four children by his first wife, their names being Phine Johnson, Whitford Hawkins, Heroy Hawkins, and Jessie Hawkins; and

Whereas, Whitford’s beloved spouse, Lula Pigatt Hawkins, was born in Florence County in the 1800s and loved to cook, sew, and sing. Her mother was Darkis Pygatt; her father, George Pygatt. George and Darkis Pygatt parented a fine family, including Fuller Pygatt, Jerome Pygatt, Kaliper Pygatt, Victoria Thompson, Spicy Pygatt Hawkins (Venus Gee’s mother), and Lula Pygatt Hawkins; and

Whereas, Henry Hawkins’s brothers were William Hawkins and George (Bill) Hawkins. William’s children were George Hawkins, Jerod Hawkins, Willie Hawkins, Tom Hawkins, Frances H. Kennedy, Emma Hawkins, Liza Hawkins Williams, and Mable Smith. George Hawkins’s children were Bill Hawkins (Williams), Jonathan Hawkins, Gredy Hawkins, Bell Hawkins, and Tasalisa Hawkins Williams; and

Whereas, Hannah B. Hawkins (Henry’s second wife) bore him Ed Black and Emma Williams. Whitford Hawkins’s sisters were Alease Hawkins and Frances Hawkins; his brothers were William Hawkins, George Hawkins, and Jessie Hawkins; and

Whereas, the Henry and Hannah Hawkins family was the first prosperous black family after emancipation from slavery. So numerous were they that the congregation of Meadow Prong Baptist Church was half Hawkinses, and the family helped greatly with getting the deed to the land on which the church was built. During Henry Hawkins’s time, the Pygatt, Timmons, Nowlin, Hawkins, Williams, Canty, Law, Kennedy, and Black families made up the congregation, and William Hawkins was one of the founders of Meadow Prong Baptist; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the legacy of the Hawkins family members and wish them much happiness as they experience the benefits of their upcoming family reunion. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Hawkins Family Reunion and congratulate the family members on their faithfulness in renewing family ties.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Hawkins Family Reunion.

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