**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE MRS. PATCELIA BELTON OF RICHLAND COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF HER NINETIETH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HER A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MUCH HAPPINESS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are delighted to learn that Mrs. Patcelia Belton of Richland County will celebrate her ninetieth birthday on May 31, 2014; and

Whereas, born on May 31, 1924, Patcelia Belton came into this world when the twentieth century was still in its youth, and she has been witness to nearly all the incredible changes and developments that have come to this nation from that time into the second decade of the twenty‑first century; and

Whereas, among the blessings God has given her are five children, and she is the proud mother of four sons and a daughter; and

Whereas, Mrs. Belton, an employee of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health for more than thirty‑two years, served the State Park community of Columbia with commitment for decades. At an early age, she started her career working at the state sanitarium in the State Park community. After serving there for several years, she took up her duties at Crafts‑Farrow State Hospital in the same area; and

Whereas, as a mental-health specialist, she dedicated herself to assisting patients in improving their mental conditions. She took special interest in the patients admitted to the unit where she worked. She was a good listener and encouraged these patients to become as independent as possible. To ensure patients were fed, she did not leave the unit for her own meal until all of them had been served. At times, she missed her own lunch breaks. She retired in 1981; and

Whereas, following her retirement, Mrs. Belton spent the majority of her time serving her community by taking care of many elderly and disabled people, all at no charge to them or their families. She also freely babysat for many mothers while they worked or participated in other activities. In addition, she provided transportation for those in the neighborhood with no other means of getting to church; and

Whereas, this woman of faith has been a member of Zion Canaan Baptist Church since childhood and has diligently participated in church activities. She sang in the musical choir, prepared the sanctuary for Communion Sundays, and earned the name of first Santa Claus of the church because she prepared the Christmas fruit bags each year for distribution to the children. Mrs. Belton also helped in the church kitchen and is famed for her delicious punch. She was an actress in the church’s annual play, “Slab Town Convention,” and was named the church’s Mother of the Year. Mrs. Belton is a missionary member and continues as a member of the Nurses’ Auxiliary and Second Family Care Team; and

Whereas, further, she is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Queen Esther‑Lodge #1; and

Whereas, the General Assembly is proud to honor this truly lovely lady at the celebration of her ninetieth birthday, and the members 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 Mrs. Patcelia Belton of Richland County on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday and wish her a joyous birthday celebration and much happiness in the days ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Mrs. Patcelia Belton.

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