**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR THE REVEREND JOHN H. GILLISON, PRESIDING ELDER OF THE AME CHURCH’S EDISTO DISTRICT, FOR HIS FIFTY‑SIX YEARS OF GOSPEL MINISTRY, TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, AND TO WISH HIM GOD’S RICHEST BLESSINGS AS HE CONTINUES TO SERVE THE LORD.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina House of Representatives honors those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to nurture the souls of men; and

Whereas, the Reverend John H. Gillison, presiding elder of the AME Church’s Edisto District, stands among their number as an outstanding minister of the Gospel, one much admired by colleagues, congregation, and area residents at large; and

Whereas, the call to preach had been stirring the heart of Reverend Gillison for some time prior to his receiving his license. His father, the Reverend George Gillison, was a minister in the AME Church for many years. Many in the community detected ministerial qualities also in John at a very early age. He was ordained an itinerant deacon and elder by Bishop S.R. Huggins; and

Whereas, it was in Hendersonville at the quarterly conference at Zion AME Church that he was questioned and received the necessary votes to be licensed to preach. The pastor was Reverend St. Julian Heyward, and the presiding elder was Dr. J.B. Jennings, who served over the Beaufort District; and

Whereas, the young John Gillison was only thirteen years old when his father died. However, he was blessed with a wonderful Christian mother, Myrtis, who kept her son focused on the positive things of life. Because of her influence, sacrificial support, and appreciation of education, her son graduated from Allen University with a bachelor’s degree, followed by a master of divinity from Turner Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. He studied further at Emory University and the University of South Carolina. In 1975, Allen University honored him with a doctor of divinity. Reverend Gillison has ministered to four congregations, St.Paul/Piney Grove Circuit in Dixiana, Chappelle Memorial in Columbia, Mt. Pisgah in Sumter, and Mother Emanuel in Charleston; and

Whereas, during his ministry, Reverend Gillison has distinguished himself in many endeavors. He taught in the Allen University Department of Religion and Philosophy, Morris College School of Religion, and Morris extension school in Charleston. In 1978, Reverend Gillison was elected president of the South Carolina Christian Action Council, making him the first black person to fill this prestigious position. He also served on the National Council of Churches (USA) General Board. Having been a life member of the NAACP for many years, Reverend Gillison has been very active in our nation’s Civil Rights Movement, as well. One of his greatest inspirations was the opportunity to visit with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in his home in Atlanta; and

Whereas, he is the proud husband of Jean Gillison, and God has blessed the couple with two daughters, Afreda and Gloria, as well as two grandsons; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives, cognizant of his many years of spiritual nourishment of the people of South Carolina, takes great pleasure in expressing grateful thanks to Reverend Gillison and in wishing him God’s best as he continues to run the race the Lord has set before him. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor the Reverend John H. Gillison, presiding elder of the AME Church’s Edisto District, for his fifty‑six years of Gospel ministry, congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement, and wish him God’s richest blessings as he continues to serve the Lord.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Reverend John H. Gillison.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑