**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE REVEREND LORENZA TALMAGE BAKER, PRESIDING ELDER OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH’S ORANGEBURG DISTRICT, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, TO HONOR HIS FORTY‑EIGHT YEARS OF GOSPEL MINISTRY, 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 Lorenza Talmage Baker, presiding elder of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church’s Orangeburg District, stands among his peers as an outstanding minister of the Gospel, one much admired by colleagues, congregation, and area residents at large; and

Whereas, born in Suffolk, Virginia, he is the son of Samuel and Sarah Lee Baker, the fourth of seven children, and he graduated from the Nansemond County Training School (Southwestern High School); and

Whereas, in preparation for his service to the church, Reverend Baker earned a bachelor’s degree in religious studies from the University of South Carolina and a master of divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia; and

Whereas, in the proud tradition of the Palmetto State, he served his country in the United States Marine Corps for twenty‑one years, ten of those years in enlisted service and eleven as a commissioned officer with a tour of duty in Vietnam during the height of the conflict, and he retired at the rank of captain; and

Whereas, Reverend Baker was licensed to preach in 1966, ordained as an itinerant deacon in 1970, and ordained as an itinerant elder in 1971. His first charge in the AME was to Campbell Chapel and Quinn Chapel, where he ministered for eight years; and

Whereas, in 1975, he was appointed to St. Phillip AME Church in Eastover and served the congregation with steadfast devotion for sixteen years. He accepted an appointment in 1991 to Williams Chapel AME Church in Orangeburg and was appointed three years later to the Greater St. Luke AME Church in Charleston, serving with tireless dedication for seventeen and a half years; and

Whereas, Reverend Baker was promoted to the position of presiding elder in 2011 and was appointed to serve as the presiding elder of the Orangeburg District; and

Whereas, he is a 32nd Degree Mason, a Noble of the Mystic Shrine, a member of the Royal Arch and the Knights Templar, and a life member of the NAACP; and

Whereas, together with his beloved wife, the former Ellen Cornelia Lawrence of Franklin, Virginia, he reared two fine daughters, Lori Ann Baker Brown and Sarah Donna Baker Daniels, and God further blessed the couple with two adoring granddaughters, Donna and Christian; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives, cognizant of his many years of ministering to the spiritual needs of the people of South Carolina, takes great pleasure in congratulating Reverend Baker for his meaningful service as he retires after almost a half century of ministry 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, congratulate the Reverend Lorenza Talmage Baker, presiding elder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church’s Orangeburg District, on the occasion of his retirement, honor his forty‑eight years of Gospel ministry, 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 the Reverend Lorenza Talmage Baker.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑