**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE MEMBERS OF GREATER ST. STEPHEN AME CHURCH AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM UPON THE LAYING OF THE CORNERSTONE OF THEIR NEWLY CONSTRUCTED SANCTUARY AND FAMILY LIFE CENTER.

Whereas, the Senate is pleased to learn that on Saturday, January 18, 2014, the members of Greater St. Stephen AME Church will lay the cornerstone of their newly constructed sanctuary and family life center, with Bishop Richard Franklin Norris speaking at the service and Maceo Lodge 50 conducting the laying of the cornerstone; and

Whereas, profoundly aware of the faithfulness of God, the congregation of Greater St. Stephen is grateful for the wisdom and direction He has provided them throughout the task of building their new facilities, located on Highmarket Street in Georgetown and dedicated on October 27, 2013; and

Whereas, the church’s building project was rendered necessary by the destruction of its previous facilities on Georgetown’s Winyah Street, where on Oct. 23, 2011, fire swept through and destroyed the historic sanctuary of Greater St. Stephen. Founded in the late 1890s, the church had worshipped at the corner of Winyah and Kaminski streets for more than a century; and

Whereas, on learning of the fire, Greater St. Stephen’s pastor, the Reverend Carl Anderson, urged his flock to remember that their trial would work for good, saying “God is in control of everything, and he has greater blessings in store for the Greater St. Stephen AME Church family.” Pastor Anderson has been proven a true prophet, since the church’s new acreage is almost four times the size of its previous holdings, the new 25,000‑square‑foot sanctuary is approximately three times the size of its predecessor, and the entire property promises to be a great blessing to both church and community; and

Whereas, a son of the church since his childhood, Reverend Anderson has led Greater St. Stephen as its undershepherd since 2006. During his pastorate, the church has enjoyed a multitude of accomplishments, including many improvements in church facilities and the paying off of the congregation’s $136,000 mortgage; and

Whereas, the Senate sincerely hopes the Greater St. Stephen congregation and surrounding community will find the church’s beautiful new facilities to be a great source of encouragement in the days ahead, and the members celebrate with the church the laying of its cornerstone. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor the members of Greater St. Stephen AME Church and congratulate them upon the laying of the cornerstone of their newly constructed sanctuary and family life center.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Pastor Carl Anderson for the congregation of Greater St. Stephen AME Church.

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