**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE PASTOR ROCK E. SIMS AND FIRST LADY MINISTER NORMA J. SIMS OF MOUNT PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH IN COLUMBIA UPON THE OCCASION OF THEIR TENTH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY, AND TO WISH THEM CONTINUED HAPPINESS IN THEIR SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF THEIR COMMUNITY.

Whereas, Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church is proud to celebrate ten years of dedicated and visionary service of Pastor Rock E. Sims and First Lady Minister Norma J. Sims; and

Whereas, Pastor Sims was born and raised in Folkston, Georgia. He earned an associate’s degree at Central Texas College and continued his educational pursuit at various institutions, including Wayland Baptist University and the University of Alaska. He also earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Coker College in Hartsville, and a master of divinity degree from Lutheran Southern Seminary in Columbia; and

Whereas, Reverend Sims served in the United States Army from 1977 to 2005, when he retired as a command sergeant major. He preached his first sermon and was licensed to preach in October 1997 at Snow Hawk Gospel Chapel at Fort Richardson, Alaska; and

Whereas, after he returned to Columbia, he joined Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church and served as associate minister and became pastor in January, 2006; and

Whereas, under Reverend Sims’ leadership at Mount Pilgrim, a number of initiatives have been envisioned and implemented. The church purchased new equipment, including a church bus and golf cart; improved their facilities, by building a fellowship hall, a storage shed, and a new parking lot; appointed new officers, including a church administrator, church mother, and new deacons and trustees; and expanded many of their ministries. The church has seen a steady growth in membership during Pastor Sims’ tenure; and

Whereas, Reverend Sims believes that along with being a spiritual leader comes the great joy and responsibility of winning souls for Christ, teaching, preaching God’s Word, and being a living example of a Christian in the church and community; and

Whereas, First Lady Minister Norma J. Sims was also born and raised in Folkston, Georgia. She lived there until she traveled with her husband and the United States Army for over twenty‑eight years; and

Whereas, at Mount Pilgrim, Mrs. Sims is always willing to use her gifts for the edifying of God and the building of his kingdom. She has served as Sunday School superintendent, provided leadership for the Christmas and Easter programs, and for Vacation Bible School. She is a member of the women’s ministry and is a speaker for special programs and designated morning worship services. She conducts “*Super Church*” for children ages three to eleven. Mrs. Sims professed her calling to the ministry in 2013 and was licensed as a Minister of the Gospel in July 2015; and

Whereas, First Lady Minister Sims believes that God has created and gifted each person, enabling them to give of themselves no matter what place or places they may find themselves; and

Whereas, the members of the Senate are pleased to recognize and commend this couple for their dedicated service to the people of this State and the members look forward to hearing of their continued success. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate, by this resolution, recognize and congratulate Pastor Rock E. Sims and First Lady Minister Norma J. Sims of Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in Columbia and wish them continued happiness in their service to the people of their community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Pastor Rock E. Sims and First Lady Minister Norma J. Sims.

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