**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE MEN OF COLOR WHO FOUNDED AIKEN COUNTY IN 1871 AND TO DECLARE MARCH 10, 2015, AS “AIKEN FOUNDERS DAY IN SOUTH CAROLINA.”

Whereas, on March 10, 1871, Aiken County was officially formed by men of color Prince R. Rivers, Charles D. Haynes, Samuel J. Lee, William B. Jones, and Gloster H. Holland; and

Whereas, they dedicated themselves to improving life, liberty, prosperity, and justice in all of Aiken County and the State of South Carolina. Denizens of Aiken County, these men were members of the Republican Party elected to serve their fellow citizens in various offices; and

Whereas, they took great interest in sharing the history and culture of this unique county with those who lived both inside and outside its borders and in promoting commerce, unity, and freedom; and

Whereas, these men were loved and respected by their families, neighbors, political colleagues, employees, and citizens of Aiken County; and

Whereas, through their good works, kind words, and a get‑it‑done philosophy, Prince R. Rivers, Charles D. Haynes, Samuel J. Lee, William B. Jones, and Gloster H. Holland left an indelible mark on Aiken County and this great State; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in honoring these sons of South Carolina who fought in the American Civil War, some of them in the Confederate Army and some in the Union Army; who were the first elected men of color from Aiken County; and who selected the site of the Aiken County Government and Courthouse six years after the end of the Civil War. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor the men of color who founded Aiken County in 1871, and declare March 10, 2015, as “Aiken Founders Day in South Carolina.”

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