**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE PASTOR, PASTORAL ASSOCIATES, AND CONGREGATION OF HUSPAH BAPTIST CHURCH UPON THE OCCASION OF THEIR ONE HUNDRED FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY AND TO WISH THEM CONTINUED BLESSINGS AS THEY MINISTER TO THE SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF THEIR COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that Huspah Baptist Church in Lobeco, established in 1865 under the leadership of the late Reverend Reed, will celebrate its sesquicentennial anniversary on Sunday, March 8, 2015; and

Whereas, in its early years, Huspah Baptist Church was a two‑story wooden structure located near current Highway 17. Horse and buggy were used for transportation until the T‑model Ford, but those without transportation walked to church without complaint; and

Whereas, in the balcony, the choir sang hand‑clapping, foot‑stomping, soul‑stirring songs, and the congregation would walk down to the river singing songs of Zion, while deacons used a stick to find a spot in the river for baptism. In those days, the members would seek and tell their dreams to their leader as a part of the process of “going through”; and

Whereas, sometimes the congregation took a “Recess” or a break between the morning the evening services, and other times women of the church prepared meals which would be served out of the trunks of cars in the parking lot, always serving the elderly first; and

Whereas, the pastors who served Huspah Baptist Church after Reverend Reed was called home by the Lord included Reverend Saunders, Reverend J. Thomas, Reverend Benjamin W. Pinckney, Reverend J. Smalls, Reverend Peter Green, Reverend Ed Fishburn, Reverend Rufus Green, and Reverend Benjamin J. Scott; and

Whereas, Reverend Scott served Huspah Baptist Church with singular devotion for thirty‑five years until God called him to his eternal rest in April 1996. In the same year the church was blessed with the ministry of Reverend Samuel Louis Hilton, Jr., who continues to serve as pastor; and

Whereas, Huspah is blessed to have five associate ministers: Reverend Luther Fields, Reverend Ruth Green, Reverend Terrance Smalls, Reverend Faith White, and Minister Joe Williams. The late Reverend David Clark served faithfully as an associate minister until his health failed and God called him home in May 2014; and

Whereas, deacons serve the church according to the biblical qualifications in 1 Timothy 3. Currently the deacons include Deacon Eugene White, chairman of the board of deacons; Deacon Charlie Williams for Ward #1; Deacon Alfredo Givens for Ward #2; Deacon Gabe Frazier for Ward #3; Deacon Leroy Morgan for Ward #4; Deacon Abe Jenkins for Ward #5; and Deacon Nathaniel Stafford for Ward #6; and

Whereas, congregation members are persuaded by the words of the Lord when he told the Apostle Peter: “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate [them] from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives looks to see the continued blessing of God on the Huspah Baptist Church family, as Jesus told Peter, “Upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.” Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognizes and honors the pastor, pastoral associates, and congregation of Huspah Baptist Church upon the occasion of their one hundred fiftieth anniversary and wish them continued blessings as they minister to the spiritual needs of their community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Reverend Benjamin J. Scott.

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