**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND JAMES HOLLOWAY SPEARS, JR., FOR HIS SELFLESS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MUSICAL AND EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY OF FLORENCE AND ITS SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES AND TO DECLARE MARCH 8, 2015,AS JAMES HOLLOWAY SPEARS, JR., DAY IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina House of Representatives honors individuals who freely give of their time and resources for the good of others. James Holloway Spears, Jr., of Florence has contributed valuable community service to this great State and is thereby worthy of praise; and

Whereas, from his earliest days, James H. Spears’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Spears, Sr., instilled into him a strong work ethic and commitment to the service of God. This legacy of service and devotion to church, as well as to civic and fraternal organizations, has remained with him all his life; and

Whereas, his considerable musical gifts have long been a part of his service. James Spears began learning to play the organ at eleven years old, and he has served as an organist for more than seventy‑five years. A 1946 graduate of a historically black college, Claflin University, Mr. Spears served as organist at his alma mater during his student days and has played the king of instruments over the years for his own church, sister churches, schools, civic organizations, and fraternities; and

Whereas, further, the young James served as an assistant to his father at Cumberland United Methodist Church’s Gate City Mission, where he helped with music and other duties. At Cumberland United Methodist Church, where he has been a member from the days of his youth, his role has not been limited to that of organist and music director, for he also served as church treasurer; and

Whereas, James Spears was inducted into the U.S. Army on October 26, 1952, served his country in the Korean War as a corporal, and helped servicemen earn their high school diplomas. As a teacher in the public school system, he continued to use his own education to foster that of others; and

Whereas, because he believes strongly in active involvement with his community, James Spears is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Hiram Lodge #13 F&AM, the NAACP, the Florence County Retired Teachers Association, and other civic organizations, where he has served with distinction; and

Whereas, grateful for the significant impact he has made and continues to make in service to his church and community, the House takes great pleasure in adding its collective voice to the many accolades honoring James H. Spears, Jr. 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 commend James Holloway Spears, Jr., for his selfless contributions to the musical and educational community of Florence and its surrounding communities and declare March 8, 2015,as James Holloway Spears, Jr., Day in South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to James H. Spears, Jr.

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