**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND CHAVIS AME CHURCH OF HEMINGWAY FOR ALMOST A CENTURY AND A HALF OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND TO EXTEND WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF THE CHURCH’S HISTORIC ONE HUNDRED FORTY‑NINTH ANNIVERSARY.

Whereas, having been founded around 1866 as Ehennia AME, Chavis AME Church of Hemingway will celebrate its historic one hundred forty‑ninth anniversary in 2015. The story of how the church came to be called Ehennia AME Church at its genesis unfortunately has been lost in the mists of time; and

Whereas, Chavis AME’s founding fathers had a dream to provide, with the help of God, a place of worship for their families. The church’s founding fathers were Edward Brown, Kelly Brown, Tom Brown, Peter Cooper, Grant Pasley, Jack Sampson, Moultrie Sampson, J.B. Session, and Sam Session; and

Whereas, after worshipping for several years at Millpond Cemetery, the original site, the church relocated. About 1902, the church moved to a more populous area, Highway 41/51 South near Hemingway. The members of the congregation then renamed their fellowship Chavis Chapel AME Church in honor of Presiding Elder Chavis; and

Whereas, in 1954, the church and school swapped locations, due to the consolidation of two schools that needed more space. The late Mr. George A. Melvin designed the present church and Witherspoon Educational Building; and

Whereas, standing on the faith and strength of its early pastors and members, Chavis AME’s present congregation “presses toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14), continuing to proclaim the Word of God; and

Whereas, Chavis AME Church has been a beacon of light in the Hemingway area for one hundred forty‑nine years, and, God willing, will continue its godly heritage in many more years of worship and service. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, commend Chavis AME Church of Hemingway for almost a century and a half of service to the community and extend warmest congratulations on the occasion of the church’s historic one hundred forty‑ninth anniversary.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Reverend Dr. Richard A. Brown, Jr., for Chavis AME Church.

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