**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE INTERSECTION LOCATED AT THE JUNCTURE OF CALHOUN STREET AND MCARTHUR AVENUE IN THE TOWN OF DILLON “MAJOR BETHEA INTERSECTION” AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS AT THIS INTERSECTION THAT CONTAIN THIS DESIGNATION.

Whereas, it is altogether fitting that the South Carolina General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to commend the lifelong service of Major Bethea; and

Whereas, born in Robeson County, North Carolina, Major Bethea was reared by his loving grandmother and by his mother and stepfather, who early modeled a work ethic that shaped young Major’s life; and

Whereas, after graduating from high school in Baltimore, Maryland, he joined the United States Army in 1944 and served during World War II and in the Philippines. He was honorably discharged and completed Denmark Technical College on the G. I. Bill; and

Whereas, on March 18, 1947, Major Bethea married Hattie McDuffie, and together they reared six fine children, who have blessed their parents with the affection of thirteen grandchildren and ten great‑grandchildren. The Bethea’s have celebrated sixty‑eight years of loving marriage to one another; and

Whereas, a professional tailor by trade, Major Bethea has owned and operated the same dry cleaning, laundry, and alterations business in Dillon since 1955. Although he started in a small rented facility, his business has successfully grown at three different locations and since 1993, has served the public on East Calhoun Street; and

Whereas, faithful members of McCoy’s Chapel United Methodist Church in Little Rock, the Bethea’s have been deeply involved in the church’s ministry and activities. He has served as a certified lay speaker‑preacher with the United Methodist Church and even returned to the Philippines in 1993 on a missionary trip, and two years later he ministered in Israel; and

Whereas, Mr. Bethea was recognized for serving on the board of directors of the South Carolina Association of Regional Councils Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments for twenty‑five years, and was one of thirty‑two South Carolinians who were selected Businessmen of the Year in 2001 by the *Wall Street Journal*; and

Whereas, among his numerous honors for civic, religious, and commercial involvement, he was honored with induction into the Pee Dee Black Hall of Fame and received an invitation in 2007 to attend the President’s Dinner with President of the United States, George W. Bush; and

Whereas, it would be fitting and proper to recognize the many accomplishments of Major Bethea by naming an intersection in the Town of Dillon in his honor. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly request that the Department of Transportation name the intersection located at the juncture of Calhoun Street and McArthur Avenue in the Town of Dillon “Major Bethea Intersection” and erect appropriate markers or signs at this intersection that contain this designation.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Department of Transportation.

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