**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE CLASS OF 1965 THAT GRADUATED FROM ALLEN UNIVERSITY AND TO CONGRATULATE THE MEMBERS OF THAT CLASS FOR A HALF CENTURY OF MEANINGFUL IMPACT AROUND THE WORLD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that the 1965 Class of Allen University will celebrate its golden anniversary and homecoming reunion; and

Whereas, in the fall of 1961, two hundred students matriculated as freshmen onto the campus of Allen University in Columbia; and

Whereas, during their academic career at Allen, students watched dramatic political and social changes, often participating in signature events. On September 29, 1962, federal troops were deployed to the University of Mississippi to integrate the student body there when James Meredith registered as the first African American to be admitted. In October of that year, the nation watched spellbound for the thirteen days of confrontation that threatened a nuclear war in the Western Hemisphere during the Cuban Missile Crisis; and

Whereas, on August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech, which echoed around the world and reverberated in the hearts of students on Allen University’s campus. Three short months later the world mourned the assassination of the beloved President of the United States John Fitzgerald Kennedy; and

Whereas, by 1965, the student body of Allen University numbered eight hundred seventy‑six. During March of that year, three marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, were led by Civil Rights’ activists John Lewis and Hosea Williams and by Martin Luther King, Jr., to protest discriminatory voter registration rules; and

Whereas, the first march began with some six hundred marchers who were turned back, as was the second march. After the federal district court ruled that the protesters had the right to march, the final gathering in Montgomery numbered twenty‑five thousand; and

Whereas, by August, the Voter Rights Act of 1965 had been signed into law, granting mass enfranchisement to racial minorities. The same year, the United States sent its first combat troops to the small nation of Vietnam; and

Whereas, on May 24, 1965, almost fifty years ago, seventy‑eight students graduated from Allen University, and two and a half months later on August 5, 1965, another seventy‑nine students graduated, making a total of one hundred fifty‑seven members of the Class of 1965; and

Whereas, the graduates of this class have contributed to their communities through such varied professions as teachers, city council members, mayors, hospital administrators, local and county school administrators, entrepreneurs, authors, service men and women in the United States Armed Forces, college professors, and funeral home directors; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciates the significant contributions that the Allen University graduating Class of 1965 has made throughout the world and the recognition they have brought to the Palmetto State, and the members wish the graduates a joyful fiftieth reunion and many years of continued impact and prosperity. 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 Class of 1965 that graduated from Allen University and congratulate the members of that class for a half century of meaningful impact around the world.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑