**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE JOHN STEWART SMITH III OF JASPER COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HIM MANY YEARS OF CONTINUED HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are delighted to learn that John Stewart Smith III of Jasper County celebrated his eightieth birthday on December 12, 2015; and

Whereas, the oldest of eight children, he was born on December 12, 1935, and has witnessed many remarkable social changes, technological advancements, and international developments that have spanned the globe from that time into the second decade of the twenty‑first century; and

Whereas, in the proud, patriotic tradition of South Carolinians, he served in the United States Army for twenty‑one years with a tour in the Korean Conflict and Vietnam War. Before his retirement, he received numerous commendations; and

Whereas, he served in transportation, beginning with driving trucks to transport troops, fuel, and weaponry, was eventually transferred to the transportation motor pool, and was promoted to platoon sergeant. He supervised all transportation services for the installation where he was stationed, which included scheduling the transportation of military troops in and out of combat zones, services for the commanding general and other dignitaries, school buses for military dependents, and shuttle services for military families; and

Whereas, after retiring from the military, he served as the director of Transportation Services for Beaufort‑Jasper Comprehensive Health (BJCH) Services for twenty years, developing and implementing a more efficient ferry system for transporting residents and their families from Daufauskie Island to Hilton Head for educational and medical services; and

Whereas, instrumental in obtaining resources for transporting Daufauskie residents to the mainland for emergency medical treatment services, he developed and implemented a two‑way radio communication system to establish a means of communicating and reporting emergencies efficiently. Honored by BJCH Services as “Employee of the Month” on several occasions, he saved the agency thousands of dollars in operating costs and implemented needed transportations services for the residents of Beaufort, Jasper, Hampton, and Colleton counties; and

Whereas, together with his beloved wife, Gwendolyn Johnson Smith, he reared three fine children: Karen, John Stewart IV, and Duane. He was blessed with the devotion of his late grandson, Christopher, who affectionately nicknamed him “Papa John”; and

Whereas, a member of St. John’s Baptist Church in Savannah, Georgia, and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Mr. Smith loves to hunt and fish, and he delights his friends and family by cooking extraordinary dishes of fine southern cuisine; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to honor this son of South Carolina at the celebration of his eightieth birthday and join with his family and friends in congratulating him on reaching this remarkable milestone. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate John Stewart Smith III of Jasper County on the occasion of his eightieth birthday and wish him many years of continued health and happiness.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to John Stewart Smith III.

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