**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR CLAYTON M. RICHARDSON OF HARTSVILLE FOR NEARLY HALF A CENTURY OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE HARTSVILLE COMMUNITY AND TO WISH HIM MUCH SUCCESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina House of Representatives honors those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to the welfare of this great state’s citizenry; and

Whereas, Hartsville’s Clayton M. Richardson stands among their number as an outstanding public benefactor, one much admired in his role as military veteran and tireless community advocate; and

Whereas, born on July 8, 1928, Clayton M. Richardson was the son of Adolphus and Rosa Cooper Zimmerman Richardson of Hartsville in Darlington County and one of a fine family of eight; and

Whereas, after receiving his diploma from Butler High School, Mr. Richardson earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU), an accomplishment that made him the last of the eight Richardson siblings to complete college. At JCSU, he was active in a number of academic and social groups, including Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; and

Whereas, after college graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, where he served for twenty years that saw him deployed to Korea and Saudi Arabia. In 1971, he was honorably discharged and spent several months touring Europe to expand his knowledge of other cultures. He returned to his hometown of Hartsville to serve as primary caregiver for his mother until her death in 1978; and

Whereas, Mr. Richardson’s civic engagement is extensive. He co‑founded People to People and the Butler Heritage Foundation and inspired many local initiatives like Soup and Cornbread, street cleanups, and health forums. His passion for youth led to his involvement with Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs of Hartsville and Communities in Schools; and

Whereas, as a community advocate for open dialogue and positive race relations, Mr. Richardson has served on advisory committees and task forces for the Hartsville Chamber of Commerce, United Way, City of Hartsville, Hartsville Police Department, SCORE, CareSouth Carolina, Carolina Pines Hospital, Coker College, Darlington County Coordinating Council, and the Palmetto Project, to name just a few. Further, this man of faith is a lifelong member of Centenary United Methodist Church, where he attends faithfully and currently serves on the church council; and

Whereas, in recognition of this servant leader, on March 12, 2016, Mr. Richardson’s family and many friends will host a celebration of his forty‑five years of selfless service to the Hartsville community, the event to be held at the Jerusalem Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Hartsville; and

Whereas, the members of the House of Representatives recognize that the success of the State of South Carolina, the strength of its communities, and the vitality of American society as a whole depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of individuals like Clayton M. Richardson who use their talents and resources to serve others. 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 Clayton M. Richardson of Hartsville for nearly half a century of dedicated service to the Hartsville community and wish him much success and fulfillment in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Clayton M. Richardson.

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