**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE EDDIE COOPER OF FLORENCE COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS NINETY‑EIGHTH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HIM A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MANY YEARS OF CONTINUED HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are delighted to learn that Eddie Cooper of Lake City will celebrate his ninety‑eighth birthday on April 28, 2016; and

Whereas, born in Williamsburg County on April 28, 1918, in the early part of the twentieth century, he 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, the oldest of nine children born to Clara and Joseph Cooper, Eddie Cooper was reared with a sense of responsibility to his family, and he helped to contribute to the family needs by working on the farm; and

Whereas, in the proud tradition of sons of the Palmetto State, he served more than two years in the United States Army as a postal carrier; and

Whereas, he mastered the occupation of farming and spent more than fifty years tilling the soil and reaping its benefits; and

Whereas, Mr. Cooper founded a singing quartet called The Five Clouds of Harmony, and the Gospel group traveled to praise the Lord in song for over six decades; and

Whereas, he has been a member of the OES Willing Worker Chapter #319 of Lake City for over five decades and a member of the Disabled American Veteran Chapter 5 Unit 5 Local in Sumter; and

Whereas, a lifelong member of Greater St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church in the community of Hemingway, Mr. Cooper has been a member of the Ever Ready Masonic Lodge #431 of Lake City since 1954 with more than sixty years of recorded service; and

Whereas, together with his wife, the late Ruby Lee McClam Cooper, he contributed to the lives and the rearing of thirteen children. They reared their fine daughter, Glendora Anderson, who blessed them with an adoring granddaughter, Shakeara Anderson. He later married his beloved wife, Gladys Collins; and

Whereas, Mr. Cooper taught mathematics through example without a license or formal training by adding the values of love and hard work to his life; subtracting a can’t‑do attitude from his mind; multiplying these concepts in his home, church, and community; and dividing them among the members of his household; and

Whereas, he has attributed his good health and longevity to his abstinence from alcohol and tobacco and to his faith in Christ and lifelong service to Him; 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 ninety‑eighth birthday and join with his family and friends in congratulating him on reaching this extraordinary 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 Eddie Cooper of Florence County on the occasion of his ninety‑eighth birthday and wish him a joyous birthday celebration and many years of continued health and happiness.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Eddie Cooper.

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