**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE BURNIE COULLETTE BAXTER MONTGOMERY OF COLUMBIA ON THE OCCASION OF HER ONE HUNDRED TENTH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HER A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MUCH HAPPINESS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are delighted to learn that Burnie Coullette Baxter Montgomery of Columbia will celebrate her one hundred tenth birthday on April 15, 2016; and

Whereas, born on April 15, 1906, to Steward and Bertha Coullette of Summerton, Burnie was the oldest of three children. The young Burnie came into this world when the twentieth century was still in its youth, and she has been witness to nearly all the incredible changes and developments that have come to this nation from that time into the second decade of the twenty‑first century; and

Whereas, after the death of her mother, Burnie dropped out of school in the fourth grade to care for her siblings and help her father on the farm. In December 1929, at the age of twenty‑three, she married Jack Baxter, the Lord blessing their union with seven children; and

Whereas, in March 1943, Jack died, leaving Burnie with six children to raise alone (one child having died at birth). Burnie continued working on their sharecrop farm and later married John Montgomery. One child was born to that union; and

Whereas, in search of a better life, in 1955 John and Burnie moved to Washington, D.C., where Burnie was employed as housekeeper at several area hotels. After John’s death, Burnie continued domestic work until she retired; and

Whereas, this woman of faith was a member of Enon Baptist Church in D.C. and served there as second choir president, pastor’s aide, and member of the Willing Workers Club and Sunday School. She was also Worthy Matron of the Eastern Stars’ Naomi Branch; and

Whereas, Burnie returned to South Carolina in 1994 and currently resides with her daughter. She attributes her longevity to working hard, loving the Lord, and treating others the way she wants to be treated. Her hobbies are reading her Bible, sewing, quilting, and cooking, and sometimes she can be heard praying in her sleep; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives is proud to honor this truly lovely lady at the celebration of her one hundred tenth birthday, and the members join with her family and friends in congratulating her 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 Burnie Coullette Baxter Montgomery of Columbia on the occasion of her one hundred tenth birthday and wish her a joyous birthday celebration and much happiness in the days ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Burnie Coullette Baxter Montgomery.

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