**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE LULA MAE BILLINGS WOODS OF MARLBORO COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF HER ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HER 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 Lula Mae Billings Woods will celebrate her one hundredth birthday on August 14, 2016; and

Whereas, born on August 14, 1916, in the early part of the twentieth century, she has witnessed many remarkable social changes, technological innovations, and international developments that have spanned the globe from that time into the second decade of the twenty‑first century; and

Whereas, one of seven children born to Elese Thomas Billings and James Arthur Billings on Ed Rowe’s Plantation near Cheraw, young Lula Mae walked to attend Lower Marlboro School in Bennettsville with her siblings, carrying her dinner in a two‑pound bucket; and

Whereas, the school chaplain taught Bible lessons every day, and her mother often sat on the floor at home with the children in a circle around her while she read them the Scriptures, explaining how the passage related to daily life, lessons she has passed down; and

Whereas, her father, a farmer and later an employee at Morris Funeral Home, died when she was fifteen, and her family moved to live with her grandmother, Amanda Peterkin. She attended revival meetings in Hebron at St. Beaulah Baptist Church where she met Willie Woods, Jr., and their friendship grew as they walked together to the meetings; and

Whereas, three days after her nineteenth birthday, she married her friend, Mr. Woods, and they lived in Hebron, where she became a member of Sandy Grove Missionary Baptist Church in 1937; and

Whereas, together they reared ten fine children, and the family raised hogs and chickens and grew vegetables. Besides caring for the children, Mrs. Woods picked cotton and tobacco in the fields, as did the eight oldest children as they grew; and

Whereas, Mr. Woods commuted to Fort Bragg to build the barracks, and at the completion of the work, the family moved to Clio, where Mr. Woods worked for the Ulrich and Long Company pouring cement. After he retired, he worked as a custodian at a school and continued to pour cement as an independent contractor; and

Whereas, later in life, Mrs. Woods was hired as a caregiver at Dundee Nursing Home in Bennettsville, working there until she retired. She was widely recognized by family members and her employers for the excellent care she provided for the patients; and

Whereas, her children blessed her with the affection of forty grandchildren, many great‑grandchildren, and several great‑great‑grandchildren, all of whom she dearly loves. Her family refers to her as “Queen”; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to honor this daughter of South Carolina at the celebration of her one hundredth birthday and 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 Lula Mae Billings Woods of Marlboro County on the occasion of her one hundredth birthday and wish her a joyous birthday celebration and many years of continued health and happiness.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Lula Mae Billings Woods.

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