**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE BROWN AND HEYWARD FAMILY MEMBERS ON THEIR FAITHFULNESS IN RENEWING FAMILY TIES IN HOLDING THEIR FOURTEENTH FAMILY REUNION.

Whereas, in a time when mobility and displacement from family roots make family relationships more difficult to sustain, the South Carolina House of Representatives takes great pleasure in commending the efforts of the Brown and Heyward families to maintain family identity and fellowship in their upcoming fourteenth reunion, to be held July 1‑3, 2016, in Round O; and

Whereas, in January 1838, family patriarch John Henry Brown was born in Beaufort County on Lady’s Island (St. Helena Island), and he was raised there as a child in slavery. He joined the United States Army and was assigned to Colored Troops Company K, with which he fought in the Civil War during the period 1861‑1865. One of his greatest accomplishments during his military service was receiving the rank of sergeant; and

Whereas, Sergeant John H. Brown received an honorable discharge from the Army and made his home in Round O, where he met and married Miss Eliza Anna Heyward, born May 1858. Sergeant Brown, after giving himself in service to the Lord, attended Calvary Baptist Church, while Eliza attended Trinity AME Church. Both houses of worship are located in Round O; and

Whereas, to the union of John H. Brown and Eliza Anna Heyward, sixteen children were born, four of whom died at birth. The remaining twelve were Jestinia, Isaiah, Celia, Phillip, Laura, David, Catherine, John, Alex, Binnia, Betty Lee, and Scippio; and

Whereas, through its fourteenth reunion, the Brown and Heyward families continue to recognize a tradition that dates back to the 1850s, when older family members realized the need to strengthen and preserve extended family ties; and

Whereas, the 2016 reunion in Round O will be commemorated under the theme of “Continuing the Legacy,” as the family fondly remembers the past, humbly gives thanks for the present, and anticipates the future; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the legacy of the Brown and Heyward family members and wish them much happiness as they experience the benefits of their upcoming family reunion. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate the Brown and Heyward family members on their faithfulness in renewing family ties in holding their fourteenth family reunion.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the descendants of Sergeant John H. Brown and Mrs. Eliza H. Brown (the Brown and Heyward family reunion).

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑