**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE MAJOR AND HATTIE BETHEA, OWNERS OF MAJOR’S CLEANING AND LAUNDRY, INC. IN DILLON FOR SIXTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, Major’s Cleaning and Laundry, Inc. in Dillon, will celebrate sixty years of service to the community on April 26, 2015; and

Whereas, Mr. Bethea, born in Robeson County, North Carolina, was raised by his mother and stepfather, who was in the timber business. He learned the value of hard work early in life, by watching his stepfather work; and

Whereas, Mr. Bethea met Hattie McDuffie in Little Rock, where Hattie’s mother ran a restaurant. The couple married on March 18, 1947 and have since been blessed with six children, thirteen grandchildren, and ten great grandchildren; and

Whereas, after finishing high school in Baltimore, Maryland, Mr. Bethea joined the United States Army in 1944. He graduated from Denmark Technical College after being honorably discharged. While in the Army, Mr. Bethea served during World War II in the Philippines; and

Whereas, a professional tailor by trade, Mr. Bethea began his laundry work by picking up clothes for delivery to dry cleaning facilities. He started his business in 1955 in a rented space, only twenty by thirty feet in size. Since then he has grown his business into the landmark dry cleaning store it is today, with three locations. He has gained a reputation for quality work and has a wide range of customers, stretching across the state and to North Carolina. Many of these customers have been using his laundry service for many years; and

Whereas, Mr. and Mrs. Bethea are actively involved in their community as members of McCoy’s Chapel United Methodist Church in Little Rock. Mrs. Bethea is a pianist and has been involved in the music ministry for many years, and Mr. Bethea is a certified United Methodist lay speaker‑preacher; and

Whereas, because of his history of service to the community in civic, religious, and commercial activities, Mr. Bethea has received many honors and awards. Among them are recognitions from *The Dillon Herald*, the Pee Dee Black Hall of Fame, Denmark Technical College, the South Carolina Association of Regional Councils Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments, the National Registrar of Who’s Who, and many others; and

Mr. Bethea has served numerous other organizations, including the Tri‑County Mental Health Board, the Selective Service System, and the St. Eugene Community Hospital, and the Christian Brotherhood. He was honored with the title of “Citizen of the Year” in 2014 by Dillon County.

Whereas, friends and family will join Mr. and Mrs. Bethea in celebrating sixty years of their business on Sunday, April 26, 2015 at the Ellis Performing Arts Center; and

Whereas, the members of the Senate are pleased to honor this couple who know the value of hard work and use their work to serve those in their community. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate, by this resolution, recognize and congratulate Major and Hattie Bethea, owners of Major’s Cleaning and Laundry, Inc. in Dillon, for sixty years of service to their community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. and Mrs. Major and Hattie Bethea.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑