**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CELEBRATE THE JOYOUS OCCASION OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOHN AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND TO RECOGNIZE THE CONGREGATION FOR ITS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COTTAGEVILLE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to learn that St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church of Cottageville will celebrate its one hundred fiftieth anniversary in 2018; and

Whereas, St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in 1868 in the Burhill community, where it also served several surrounding communities. The church was originally known as St. Matthew African Methodist Episcopal Church; and

Whereas, the building of the church was organized by Reverend James Nesbitt; the officials of the Charleston district; and founding fathers, Robert Aiken, Charles Farmer, Kaleb Gethers, Elijah Haynes, Daniel Jennings, Stephen Logan, Ellis Mack, Lonnie Mack, Simon Pinckney, and Cooper Rhodes. The church’s first building, which also served as the site for the local public school, was erected in 1913, and its current building was erected in 1975; and

Whereas, throughout its history, St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church has been actively involved in the Cottageville community through various ministries, including a dance ministry, a summer math and reading camp for children, an enrichment and empowerment forum for young adult males, a community garden, a senior citizens’ breakfast and exercise club, and a summer breakfast and lunch program for children; and

Whereas, over the years, St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church has fostered and supported its congregation, producing ministers, a presiding elder, educators, a doctor, laborers, musicians, truck drivers, homemakers, and military personnel; and

Whereas, today, members of St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church continue to serve at almost every level of the church and volunteer their services throughout the community; and

Whereas, in recent years, the church has experienced significant growth under the leadership of Reverend Albertha Cook, Reverend William Miller, and current pastor Reverend L. Vanessa Johnson; and

Whereas, a beacon of light for its community, St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church serves as a model for churches of all denominations. Remaining steadfast amidst adversity, the church is known as the “soulful church with a servant’s heart” and is guided by the motto, “To God be the glory for all the great things He has done”; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate recognize and honor St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church’s commitment to the Lord and to the spiritual growth of its congregation, and the members look forward to many future milestone anniversaries. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, celebrate the joyous occasion of the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church and recognize the congregation for its many years of dedicated service to the Cottageville community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church.

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