**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND APPLAUD MASTER PILOT ROGER L. BLACKMAN ON RECEIVING THE WRIGHT BROTHERS MASTER PILOT AWARD IN MARCH 2017.

Whereas, it is altogether fitting and proper that the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives pause in their deliberations to recognize and commend Roger L. Blackman on the extraordinary feat of receiving the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award; and

Whereas, this award, named after the our nation’s first pilots, recognizes individuals who have exhibited professionalism, skill, and aviation expertise for at least fifty years while piloting aircraft as “Master Pilots”. To be eligible, a pilot must be a United States citizen and hold a U.S. Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) or Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) pilot certificate; and

Whereas, born in September of 1950, in Darlington County, Roger Blackman is the middle son of Don and Marie Blackman. He attended Darlington public schools until his graduation from St. John’s High School in 1968; and

Whereas, working his way through college, he held a multitude of jobs, including police officer, disc jockey, cost engineer, and machine operator at Sonoco, while living in a rented room in Quinby. In 1970, he received his associate degree from the University of South Carolina at Florence, and in 1972, he was a member of the first graduating class of Francis Marion University, where he earned his bachelor degree in business administration; and

Whereas, in 1972, Governor John C. West appointed Roger to the role of S.C. State Constable, a position which he held for approximately twenty years. That same year, he entered the 132nd Military Police in the South Carolina National Guard, and served as an 05B20 Military Policeman until honorably discharged in 1978; and

Whereas, a perpetual student, Roger Blackman has never stopped seeking further training and education. In 1974, he received his teaching certification after completing secondary education courses and practice teaching hours at Wilson High School. In addition to completing several courses at Florence Darlington Technical College, Roger is also a 2017 graduate of the Fred Sheheen Leadership Course at Francis Marion University; and

Whereas, among other accomplishments, he completed special leadership training at Fort Jackson in Columbia and served as squad leader during basic training. He graduated from advanced individual training at Fort Gordon in Georgia, where he received top secret clearance and completed signal school and military police training. He earned his FCC First Class Engineer license, later renamed General Radio‑Telephone license. He was licensed by the FAA as a Part 137 Aerial Applicator from 1982 until 2010; and

Whereas, impressively, Roger completed his first solo flight before he had completed high school. He flew in an Aeronca 7AC in 1965 at Darlington County Airport and became a private pilot in 1970. In 1982, he served as a commercial, multi‑engine, and instrument pilot and has, over the course of his flying career, logged over six thousand hours; and

Whereas, Roger Blackman is active in his community, including as president of the Timmonsville Public Library board. He also is the president of Kellar LLC in Timmonsville and is the owner of Blackman Farms in Darlington; and

Whereas, the members of the House of Representatives are pleased to honor such a dedicated son of our State and appreciate the recognition and prestige that Roger Blackman has brought to South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor and applaud Master Pilot Roger L. Blackman on receiving the Wright Brothers Master Pilot award in March 2017.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Master Pilot Roger L. Blackman.

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