**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE REVEREND JOHN H. FINLEY IV OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED AND OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF BOSTON AND BEYOND.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to pause in its deliberations to offer a sincere collective salute to the Reverend John H. Finley IV of Boston, Massachusetts, who has long served the people of Boston and beyond in working to improve educational opportunities for those most in need; and

Whereas, Reverend Finley is the co‑founder and head of Epiphany School, a tuition‑free independent school for economically disadvantaged and abused and neglected children. He has helped launch dozens of other schools inspired by Epiphany’s example and has been involved in starting other initiatives in education, including the Nativity Preparatory School in Boston, the NativityMiguel Network, Codman Academy Charter School, Boston Scholars, and Bridge Boston Charter School; and

Whereas, at Epiphany School, he has led fundraising efforts that have raised eighty million dollars to date. He oversaw the construction of a 25,000‑square‑foot schoolhouse and is implementing a program that is raising test scores and successfully placing graduates in high school and college; and

Whereas, he has served as a judge for the Caplow Children’s Prize and is also a trustee of the Stephen Phillips Scholarship Fund, which awards several million dollars a year in college scholarships; and

Whereas, a graduate of Harvard, he remains involved there, serving on the boards of the Charity of Edward Hopkins, the Memorial Church, the Open Gate Foundation, and the Signet Society. Reverend Finley is a 2017 Barr Fellow, and in his capacity as an Episcopal priest, he serves as the priest associate of St. Mary’s in Dorchester, Massachusetts. He is also affiliated with the Church of the Redeemer in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts; and

Whereas, John Finley believes strongly in personal involvement with his community, and his convictions have led him to serve that community, as well as the broader community of his state and beyond, in a number of capacities both inside and outside the halls of education. Past and present beneficiaries of his service include the On the Rise (founding board member and clerk, 1994 to 2006), Chestnut Hill School (board member, 2000 to 2003), Harvard Square Homeless Shelter (founding board member, 1997 to 2002), St. Mark’s Main Street (advisory board member, 2004 to 2010), Forward Movement (advisory board member, 2004 to 2012), Esperanza Academy (board of advisors member, 2005 to 2012), Bethany House of Prayer (trustee, 2008 to 2012), and Charity of Edward Hopkins (trustee, 2009 to present); and

Whereas, in recognition of his committed service, Reverend Finley has been granted various honors, in addition to his recent naming as a Barr Foundation Fellow. He is an honorary doctor of divinity of Berkeley Divinity School at Yale and a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Further, he is a contributing author to *Reasons for Being*, a collection of essays on Episcopal schools (2010), as well as the author of *Abraham Went*, the Cheney Lecture at Berkeley Divinity School (2010); and

Whereas, cognizant of his invaluable contributions to the people of Massachusetts, most particularly those of the Boston area, the House extends grateful appreciation to Reverend Finley for his many years of community service. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Reverend John H. Finley IV of Boston, Massachusetts, for his many years of dedicated and outstanding community service to the people of Boston and beyond.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Reverend John H. Finley IV.

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