**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE DR. CLYDE P. THOMAS, SENIOR PASTOR OF CHEROKEE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER FORTY‑THREE YEARS OF SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE TO THE UPSTATE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives deem it altogether fitting and proper to pause in their deliberations to congratulate Dr. Clyde P. Thomas on the occasion of his retirement; and

Whereas, upon graduation from Gaffney Senior High School in 1971, Dr. Clyde Thomas attended Limestone College and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 1975. He furthered his education by earning a Master of Divinity and Religious Education Degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1978 and a Clinical Pastor Education Degree from Greenville Mental Health and Hospital in 1983. His education culminated in a doctorate from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina in 1986; and

Whereas, Dr. Thomas began his ministry to Cherokee Avenue Baptist Church in 1974 and was ordained on August 8, 1976. During his time there, he has served in maintenance in the Family Life Center Facility and as minister to children and youth, Associate Pastor, Educational Director, Senior Adult Director, and Senior Pastor. In addition, he developed a program for disadvantaged children in the community. He also served as Interim Pastor of Christian Heights Baptist Church, Youth Director of Draytonville Baptist Church, and Pastor of Oakdale Baptist Church in Cowpens. He has been a part of several State, national, and international mission projects, including two trips to Venezuela, South America; and

Whereas, Dr. Thomas has served in various leadership roles, including Discipleship Training Director of Broad River Baptist Association, Advisory Committee Member for Gardner Webb University and Limestone College, Past President of Broad River Baptist Ministerial Fellowship, Past President of Greater Gaffney Ministerial Fellowship, Charter Member and Chairman of the Peach Center Ministries Board of Directors, and Chairman of the Cherokee County Special Needs and Disabilities Board. He has served with a number of other civic organizations, including the Boys and Girls Club, Cherokee County Drug and Alcohol Awareness Committee, Cherokee County Service to the Aging, and the Parson’s Pantry Board. He also established Peach Center Ministries, which serves over three thousand individuals a year with food, personal items, clothing, utility vouchers, and medicine; and

Whereas, in 2003, Dr. Thomas was awarded the Order of the Silver Crescent. He was also presented the Limestone College Service to the Church and Community Award; and

Whereas, he and his beloved wife Jody live in Gaffney and have two grown sons, Preston and Grady. In his free time, Dr. Thomas enjoys reading and playing golf; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the ministry of Dr. Clyde P. Thomas and his service to the community of Cherokee and the State of 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 recognize Dr. Clyde P. Thomas, Senior Pastor of Cherokee Avenue Baptist Church, on the occasion of his retirement after forty‑three years of spiritual guidance to the Upstate community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Clyde P. Thomas.

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