**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR THE LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE OF FANNIE PETTIE WATTS, CO‑FOUNDER OF ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED, AND FOUNDER SPECIFIC TO THE SOUTHEASTERN REGION OF THE SORORITY, WHICH INCLUDES THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, a community‑conscious, action‑oriented organization, was founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C., on January 16, 1920, by five outstanding undergraduates; and

Whereas, these five founders, Arizona Cleaver (Stemons), Pearl Anna Neal, Myrtle Tyler (Faithful), Viola Tyler (Goings), and Fannie Pettie (Watts), established principles of guidance significant to world betterment on the precepts of scholarship, service, sisterhood, and finer womanhood; and

Whereas, co‑founder Fannie Pettie Watts was the youngest member of the founders and the founder specific to the sorority’s Southeastern Region, which now shares the states and regions of South Carolina, Florida, the Bahamas, Georgia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; and

Whereas, in addition, Fannie’s mother, Fannie Rollins Pettie, served the states of South Carolina and Georgia as moderator of the Georgia‑South Carolina United Church of Christ Organization and was a member of the Southeast Conference Board of Directors; and

Whereas, as a young lady, Fannie Pettie co‑founded an organization that has been innovative in being the first national Pan‑Hellenic Council organization to centralize its operations in a national headquarters, first to charter a chapter in Africa and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, first to form auxiliary groups, and first to be constitutionally bound to a fraternity; and

Whereas, the founding of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, has brought significant contributions to the welfare of the people of South Carolina, who with gratitude acknowledge co‑founder Fannie Pettie Watts on behalf of all who have benefited from the organization’s invaluable labors; and

Whereas, the Southeastern Region of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, incorporated on November 8, 2017, on the campus of Savannah State University, especially commemorates the life and legacy of Fannie Pettie Watts. The region is presently led by the following officers: International President Dr. Mary Breaux Wright, Southeastern Regional Director Dr. Yvonne Jefferson‑Barnes, South Carolina State Director Latorsha Murray, Georgia State Director Shaneesa Ashford, Florida/Bahamas State Director Edna McClendon, U.S. Virgin Islands State Director Nichole Samuel‑Miller, Trinidad and Tobago Liaison Iana Daniels, Board Chair Marion Gary, and the Southeastern Region Executive Board, all supported by the general membership of the region. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor the leadership and service of Fannie Pettie Watts, co‑founder of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, and founder specific to the Southeastern Region of the sorority, which includes the State of South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑