**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR JUDGE RICHARD E. FIELDS FOR A LIFETIME OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS IN ALL OF HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives deem it altogether appropriate to pause in their deliberations to applaud a son of the Palmetto State who has lived a life committed to public and community service, Judge Richard E. Fields; and

Whereas, Judge Fields was born and raised in Charleston. He attended high school at Avery Institute, college at West Virginia State College, now West Virginia State University, and post‑graduate study at Howard University School of Law. Judge Fields passed the Bar and was admitted to practice law in the District of Columbia and the State of South Carolina. Judge Fields’ private and professional endeavors have included many religious, civic, and political activities, acquiring leadership positions in each area.

Whereas, when he returned to Charleston, Judge Fields resumed his membership at the historic Centenary Methodist Church. He was elected treasurer of that congregation around 1950 and retains that position to this date. He has served as a delegate for the church in a variety of circumstances; and

Whereas, in 1952, he was elected to the Board of Trustees of Claflin College, now Claflin University, in Orangeburg. He also represented the university as its attorney and served on many of its committees during his almost fifty years on the Board. In 1992, a scholarship was established in his name to provide financial assistance to students of merit; and

Whereas, Judge Fields served as a judge of the Circuit Courts of South Carolina from 1992 until his retirement. His portrait hangs on the fourth floor of the Charleston County Judicial Center; and

Whereas, in 1999, the local chapter of “100 Black Men” honored Judge Fields with a testimonial dinner for his public service and contributions to the community and legal profession. In 2003 Judge Fields was saluted by the South Carolina Education Project of Columbia, South Carolina for twenty‑seven years of judicial service to the people of South Carolina. He was once again honored in 2011 by the Center for Heirs Property Preservation with its first Commitment to Justice Award, and again in 2013 at the third annual Voorhees College President’s Scholarship gala with the Keeper of the Flame Award; and

Whereas, along with several other black citizens, Judge Fields formed the Charleston County Political Action Committee (PAC) for the purpose of organizing black voters and educating them in the power of the ballot, and for the additional purpose of electing blacks to political office. This group, through its screening committee, was able to influence elections in Charleston for a decade; and

Whereas, Judge Fields was married to the love of his life, the late Myrtle T. Evans, and together they had two cherished children, Mary Diane Fields‑Reed and Richard E. Fields, Jr.; and

Whereas, Judge Fields’ career was long and illustrious. Enumerating his many accomplishments both inside and outside the courtroom hardly does justice to a man whose life has been dedicated to bettering the lives of others. It is impossible to fully and appropriately express the influence he has had on the lives of others. The members of the House of Representatives are grateful for the mark Judge Fields has left on the world and look forward to hearing of his future successes. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor Judge Richard E. Fields for a lifetime of accomplishments and wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Judge Richard E. Fields.

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