**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE DR. IVORY TORREY THIGPEN ON HIS TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF GOSPEL MINISTRY AS SENIOR PASTOR OF COLUMBIA’S REHOBOTH BAPTIST CHURCH AND TO WISH HIM GOD’S RICHEST BLESSINGS AS HE CONTINUES TO SERVE THE LORD.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina House of Representatives honors those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to nourish the souls of men; and

Whereas, Dr. Ivory Torrey Thigpen of Rehoboth Baptist Church in Columbia stands among their number as an outstanding minister of the Gospel, one much admired by colleagues, congregation, and area residents at large; and

Whereas, in preparation for his life’s work, this Mississippi native earned a degree in biology/premed at Jackson State University and was inducted into Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honor Society. After graduate studies at Jackson State, Ivory was accepted into the doctoral program at Palmer College of Chiropractic; and

Whereas, during his years at Palmer, he was called into the ministry. To further his education as a minister, Dr. Thigpen later earned a master’s degree at the Morehouse School of Religion‑‑Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia; and

Whereas, in 2008, Dr. Thigpen was elected senior pastor of Rehoboth Baptist Church, where he serves to this day. After his election at Rehoboth, the Fairfield County Missionary Baptist and Educational Association elected him to the position of moderator, making him the youngest individual ever elected to that post in the organization’s history. He also serves on the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina Executive Board. Further, in January 2015 he was appointed to the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Executive Board, becoming the youngest individual ever appointed to this prestigious board of clergy. In addition to his work at Rehoboth Baptist, Dr. Thigpen, along with his wife, serves his community through medical services at Restore Chiropractic & Family Wellness Center, of which they are the owners. The two also have served as team physicians for Benedict College Athletics and American Red Cross First Aid; and

Whereas, believing strongly in active participation in the community, Dr. Thigpen has served as a member of numerous organizations, among them the South Carolina Christian Action Council Board, Christ Teens of Columbia Board, and American Chiropractic Association (legislative representative). He has volunteered many hours to such organizations as Providence Hospital, the Columbia Police Department (chaplain), and America Reads (tutor) and presently serves as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives for District 79; and

Whereas, Ivory Thigpen considers it one of the proudest achievements of his life that he was able to persuade the lovely Martia Creighton Thigpen, also a doctor of chiropractic, to be his wife. The Thigpens are the joyful parents of four children; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives, cognizant of his many years of spiritual nourishment of the people of South Carolina, extends grateful thanks to Dr. Thigpen and wishes him God’s best as he continues to run the race the Lord has set before him. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Dr. Ivory Torrey Thigpen on his tenth anniversary of Gospel ministry as senior pastor of Columbia’s Rehoboth Baptist Church and wish him God’s richest blessings as he continues to serve the Lord.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Dr. Ivory Torrey Thigpen.

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