**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE MR. BEN SMITH, JR., ON THE OCCASION OF HIS ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HIM MUCH HAPPINESS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are delighted to learn that Mr. Ben Smith, Jr., will celebrate his one hundredth birthday in 2018; and

Whereas, born in 1918 in the early part of the twentieth century, Mr. Smith has been witness to nearly all the remarkable social changes, technological advancements, and international developments that have transformed the world from that time into the second decade of the twenty‑first century; and

Whereas, this grandson of former slaves, beloved as a father, grandfather, great‑grandfather, and great‑great‑grandfather, made a respected place for himself as a carpenter, brickmason, plumber, electrician, and former construction contractor. Indeed, many brickmasons and construction contractors have come from his family over the years; and

Whereas, answering the call of his country, Mr. Smith served as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II. In his community, he is a deacon and a Mason; and

Whereas, when he finds himself enjoying lighter moments, Mr. Smith indulges in telling stories and jokes. Among his favorite quotations are “No cross, no crown” and “His grace is sufficient.” Mr. Smith’s favorite songs are “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross,” “Your Grace and Mercy Brought Me Through,” and “I’m Going Home on the Morning Train.” His favorite Scripture is Psalm 23; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives is pleased to honor Mr. Ben Smith, Jr., at the celebration of his centennial birthday, and the members join with his family and friends in congratulating him on reaching this extraordinary milestone. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Mr. Ben Smith, Jr., on the occasion of his one hundredth birthday and wish him much happiness in the days ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mr. Ben Smith, Jr.

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