**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE DR. ANNIE LEE DILLARD ON THE OCCASION OF HER NINETY‑THIRD BIRTHDAY, TO CELEBRATE HER MAY 2018 GRADUATION FROM MIDLANDS TECHNICAL COLLEGE, AND TO WISH HER MUCH HAPPINESS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Whereas, on July 2, 2018, Dr. Annie Lee Dillard awakened to a milestone event in her life, her ninety‑third birthday; and

Whereas, affectionately known as “Sister Dee,” “Miss Dee,” “Ma,” and “Momma Dee,” Dr. Annie Lee Dillard was born in Prosperity on July 2, 1925, and was raised by an aunt and uncle after her mother died when Annie was four months old. Growing up, the young girl attended Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in Prosperity; and

Whereas, as was the custom of that era, she walked seven miles to Oak Grove Grammar School and was never late. Upon completion of grammar school, she attended Howard Junior High School, where the principal encouraged her to pursue a career in cosmetology. After moving to Columbia, she did just that. Her next project: Annie decided to further her education, since her school in Prosperity only went through the tenth grade. As a result, she attended a local high school, where she earned her diploma, working as a cosmetologist during the day and attending school at night. A great love for education, coupled with hard work and diligence, kept her in the beauty and fashion industry for more than fifty‑five years; and

Whereas, although obtaining a high school diploma was a great accomplishment in her life, it was not a greater highlight than the birth of her daughter, Gail D. Washington, M.D., and her marriage to the late SFC George Ellis Dillard; and

Whereas, further education included the earning of a bachelor’s degree from Allen University and a certificate of completion from South Carolina State College, which qualified her to be an instructor of cosmetology at the Waverly School of Beauty Culture; and

Whereas, years of travel with her family while her husband served in the United States Army did not end the love she had for cosmetology. Eventually, she opened her own business, Unique Beauty Salon, currently in operation at Parklane Road in Columbia. Annie was inspired to reach greater heights and so attended Dudley’s School of Cosmetology, where she obtained three degrees in cosmetology, including a doctorate. She also completed modeling school at Revelations Modeling School and Agency, received several modeling competition awards, and was featured in several commercials aired in four states; and

Whereas, this woman of faith serves her God at Abundant Life Outreach Ministries, Inc., in Cayce, where she is very active as its oldest member. She bowls with the Holy Rollers Bowling League, and she does not have to use a walker, cane, or wheelchair. She also continues to drive, even at night; and

Whereas, inspired to learn more and continue her education, Dr. Dillard attended Truth Bible College and Seminary, from which she received three degrees, among them a doctorate in theology. Recently, on May 9, 2018, “Momma Dee” graduated from Midlands Technical College, from which she received an associate’s degree in liberal arts. She is the oldest person in the history of the school to graduate; and

Whereas, it is a great pleasure to honor this daughter of South Carolina at the celebration of her ninety‑third birthday and her recent college graduation and to join with her family and friends in congratulating her on reaching this important life 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 Dr. Annie Lee Dillard on the occasion of her ninety‑third birthday, celebrate her May 2018 graduation from Midlands Technical College, and wish her much happiness in the days ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Annie Lee Dillard.

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