**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND MOUNT MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH OF SPARTANBURG FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY AND A HALF OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND TO EXTEND WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF THE CHURCH’S HISTORIC ONE HUNDRED FIFTY‑FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

Whereas, having been founded in 1863, Mount Moriah Baptist Church of Spartanburg will celebrate its historic one hundred fifty‑fifth anniversary in 2018; and

Whereas, during the year of the Emancipation Proclamation (1863), there was an effort to organize Mount Moriah Baptist Church. In its earliest days, the church worshipped in a brush‑and‑grape arbor standing on property belonging to Joseph Young, who at that time owned the entire square of land from Young Street to Caulder Avenue; and

Whereas, in 1870, Joseph Young and approximately six other men established a more formal organization of Mount Moriah, and this group led the congregation into constructing the first edifice. Later, the first brick church facility erected by a Negro group in South Carolina was built. Its congregation became the first Negro Baptist church in Spartanburg and was known for a short period of time as the Colored Baptist Church. It later became Mount Moriah Baptist Church. The first pastor called by the congregation was Reverend H.V. Moore; and

Whereas, early founder Joseph Young donated the land on which the first church was built, a lot located on the corner of Young and South Liberty streets. About 1912, while a new building was under construction, the congregation worshipped for a time in a tent. Over the years, the Lord blessed and enlarged the congregation; and

Whereas, in 1977, the congregation entered a newly completed sanctuary and administration and classroom building. Three additional tracts of property were purchased for future expansion. Later, Mount Moriah began construction of a 27,500‑square‑foot Chapel and Family Life Center Complex. Currently, this building is used to house a sixteen‑station computer lab, game room, arts and crafts room, food and clothes bank, chapel, courtyard, and formal boardroom; and

Whereas, under the leadership of Pastor Benjamin D. Snoddy, who accepted the church’s call in 1975, God truly has blessed Mount Moriah with continued spiritual and numerical growth. Today, the church sponsors Bible studies, a puppet ministry, educational trips and other exciting experiences for children and teens, vibrant senior citizens’ and singles’ ministries, a health and wellness ministry, basketball league, evangelism ministry, Christian Education ministry, and more; and

Whereas, Mount Moriah Baptist Church has been a beacon of light in Spartanburg for one hundred fifty‑five years, and, God willing, will continue its godly heritage in many more years of worship and service. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, commend Mount Moriah Baptist Church of Spartanburg for more than a century and a half of service to the community and extend warmest congratulations on the occasion of the church’s historic one hundred fifty‑fifth anniversary.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Reverend Benjamin D. Snoddy for Mount Moriah Baptist Church.

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