**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF GREENWOOD ON THE OCCASION OF ITS EIGHTY‑NINTH ANNIVERSARY AND TO COMMEND THE CHURCH FOR NEARLY NINE DECADES OF SERVICE TO GOD AND THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, having been founded in 1928, Tabernacle Baptist Church of Greenwood is celebrating its eighty‑ninth anniversary in 2017; and

Whereas, in 1928, a group of Christian men and women, under the leadership of Brother Charlie Stewart, saw the need for another Baptist church in Greenwood. This dedicated group had its beginning in the home of the Reverend J.H. Walker on Baptist Street. The group moved to East End School and then to the fairgrounds on Phoenix Street. There, the church was organized by the Little River Baptist Association Executive Board, which was under the leadership of Moderator J.S. Maddox, Sr.; and

Whereas, Sister Malinda Thompson gave the new church its name, and after holding services for several months at the fairgrounds, the members purchased a permanent home. This was Jessie Stewart’s house on Baptist Street, where the current church building now stands. The house was converted into a small edifice for worship services; and

Whereas, in 1934, the original sanctuary was built. In December 1979, Tabernacle completed the renovation of the sanctuary and added the educational wing and multipurpose room. By July 31, 2016, extensive renovations were completed, and the newly renovated building was dedicated; and

Whereas, over the course of Tabernacle’s rich history, a number of godly men have been called to lead its parishioners. These pastors include the Reverends J.W. Mathis (1928‑1934), Theodore Roosevelt Tolbert (1934‑1937), Charles Brown (1937), James D. Rucker (1937‑1941), Samuel Kay (1941‑1951), Ernest L. Cain (1951‑1981), Ulysses Parks (1982‑1990), Marvin O’Neal Hughes (1993‑1999), William L. Moore (2001‑2006), Tracy J. Samuel (2007‑2010), and John C. Aiken, Sr. (2011‑present). The church’s current associate ministers are the Reverends Rebecca C. Aiken and Hattie J. Henderson; and

Whereas, Tabernacle Baptist Church has been a beacon of light and a community worship center in the Greenwood area for eighty‑nine years, and, God willing, will continue its godly heritage for many more years of worship and service. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and congratulate Tabernacle Baptist Church of Greenwood on the occasion of its eighty‑ninth anniversary and commend the church for nearly nine decades of service to God and the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Tabernacle Baptist Church.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑