**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE REVEREND DR. LATTA ROOSEVELT THOMAS FOR HIS YEARS OF OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO THE SECOND CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH CONGREGATION AND THE COLUMBIA COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to recognize and honor Reverend Dr. Latta Roosevelt Thomas, who answered the call of the Holy Spirit in serving those around him; and

Whereas, Reverend Dr. Latta Roosevelt Thomas was born on October 12, 1927 in Union, South Carolina. He graduated from Friendship College in Rock Hill, South Carolina with an Associate of Arts degree in 1949; from Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina, where he was salutatorian, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1951; from Colgate Rochester Seminary in Rochester, New York with a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1955; from Andover Newton Theological Seminary with a Master of Sacred Theology degree in 1966; and from Andover Newton with a Doctor of Ministry degree in 1973; and

Whereas, Dr. Thomas served as a full-time minister at Monumental Baptist Church in Elmira, New York, where he met his wife, Bessie “Bea” Lowery. He also served as the pastor of Second Calvary Baptist Church for twenty years. During those years, the congregation enjoyed a period of growth, vibrant ministry, and Biblical-styled fellowship. A dynamic preacher and gifted teacher of the Word of God, Dr. Thomas has left a powerful legacy and a firm foundation for the future and current generations of Second Calvary Baptist Church; and

Whereas, during Dr. Thomas’s thirty-year tenure at Benedict College, he served as school chaplain and head of the Religion and Philosophy Department. He also taught at Morris College and Lutheran Theological Seminary. As a progressive theologian, Dr. Thomas has published numerous articles and two books, *Biblical Faith and the Black American* and *The Biblical God and Human Suffering*; and

Whereas, Dr. Thomas received the Order of the Palmetto from Governor Mark Sanford. He is a member of the Progressive National Baptist Convention and the NAACP and is a past chairman of the South Carolina Academy of Religion; and

Whereas, Dr. Thomas resides in Columbia, South Carolina, where he spends his time perfecting his Greek and reading for pleasure; and

Whereas, the Senate is grateful for the ministry of Reverend Dr. Latta Roosevelt Thomas and his service to and sacrifices for the community of Columbia and the State. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, honor and recognize Reverend Dr. Latta Roosevelt Thomas for his years of outstanding leadership and service to the Second Calvary Baptist Church congregation and the Columbia community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Reverend Dr. Latta Roosevelt Thomas.

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