**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH OF CALHOUN COUNTY, ITS PASTOR AND CONGREGATION AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR RICH HISTORY DURING ONE HUNDRED FIFTY YEARS OF EXEMPLARY CHRISTIAN MISSION AND MINISTRY IN THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to learn that Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Fort Motte celebrated its sesquicentennial anniversary, using the theme, Journey of Faith, during May 19‑21, 2017; and

Whereas, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church was established in 1867 by freed slaves who had conducted worship services on Wednesday nights in what was called the Meeting House in the plantation quarters. The desire to establish their own churches and schools led to the formation of Mt. Pleasant Baptist in 1867, believed to be the oldest African‑American church in Fort Motte; and

Whereas, one of the first schools in the Fort Motte community, Mount Pleasant served as a school for freed slaves in 1867, serving all the freed slaves in the area; and

Whereas, owners of the Goshen, Oakland, Belleville, and Lang Syne plantations in the area, the Cheves, Heatley, McCord, and Smythe families, donated land for the building of Mount Pleasant two years after the Emancipation Proclamation for the newly freed slaves who were residents of those plantations; and

Whereas, from the humble beginnings of Mount Pleasant Baptist, state senators and representatives emerged after Reconstruction to represent the Fort Motte area; and

Whereas, the mother church of the Fort Motte community, Mount Pleasant, has undergone a number of renovations, including the bricking of the original wooden structure and the addition of a dining facility, fellowship hall, and public address system; and

Whereas, Reverend Wesley A. Brown, pastor of Mount Pleasant, is the great‑grandson of the church’s fourth pastor, James Samuel Brown, who served the congregation in the early nineteen hundreds, and Reverend Brown now preaches from the same pulpit; and

Whereas, many descendants of former members, now spread out over the country, return for church anniversaries, but over the church’s sesquicentennial celebration, descendants of slave owners, of land donors, and of church members are expected to attend; and

Whereas, on Friday evening, May 19, 2017, the congregation began the sesquicentennial celebration with a time of fellowship and refreshments at the church and a quartet program featuring The Harmonizing Six, Rehoboth, and Flossie Boyd & Favor; and

Whereas, on Saturday evening, a formal gala was held at St. Matthews K‑8 School, and the Honorable James Clyburn was the special guest speaker. The Honorable Darrell Jackson, pastor of Bible Way Church of Atlas Road in Columbia and who also has descendants who worshiped at Mount Pleasant, was the special guest speaker at an afternoon service on Sunday at the church; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate values the ministry of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, and the members celebrate with the congregation and pastor as they reach the remarkable milestone of a century and a half of serving God in the Fort Motte community. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Mount Pleasant Baptist Church of Calhoun County its pastor and congregation as they celebrate one hundred fifty years of exemplary Christian mission and ministry in the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Reverend Wesley A. Brown.

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