**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE DR. WALTER B. CURRY JR. FOR HIS SIGNIFICANT WORK IN SERVICE TO AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY AND HERITAGE IN THIS STATE AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON RECEIVING THE 2019 INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN‑AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGY SOCIETY BOOK AWARD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to recognize Dr. Walter B. Curry Jr. for receiving the 2019 International African‑American Historical and Genealogy Society Book Award at a ceremony on October 10, 2019 at the African‑American Historical and Genealogy Conference; and

Whereas, a native of Orangeburg, Dr. Walter B. Curry Jr. earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from South Carolina State University and several graduate degrees in education, including a doctorate in curriculum and instruction from Argosy University; and

Whereas, Dr. Curry has led an outstanding career as a genealogist, educator, and founder of Renaissance Publications LLC. He is currently a professor of education at Claflin University and formerly taught middle school social studies in urban and rural schools; and

Whereas, Dr. Curry’s award-winning book, *The Thompson Family: Untold Stories from the Past (1830‑1960)*, is the first of several volumes that chronicles the genealogical diversity and experiences of the Thompson family, whose roots stretch back to the Skillet Community of Salley. The book includes relatives’ reflections and experiences that intersect with broader themes of African-American life and history in the State. It is a powerful story of civic engagement and achievement in the face of adversity; and

Whereas, several narratives include a slave who purchased his freedom, a relative who served as a cook in the Confederate Army, a young relative who was tragically murdered, and a sharecropper who became a prominent soil conservationist; and

Whereas, the 2019 International African American Historical and Genealogy Society Book Award is a testament to the rich legacy of Dr. Curry’s family and the richness of African‑American history in both Aiken County and South Carolina. The competitive contest recognizes authors that examine and portray African‑ancestored family history and genealogy in order to preserve African ancestral family history, genealogy, and cultural diversity; and

Whereas, an active leader in his community and profession, Dr. Curry is a member of several civic, historical, and professional societies, including the African‑American Historical and Genealogical Society, the Aiken‑Barnwell Genealogical Society, Friends of the Aiken County Museum, and the Aiken County Historical Society; and

Whereas, Dr. Curry currently resides in Columbia with his wife, Takiyah. Together, they have two sons, Braxton and Braylen; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate greatly appreciate the pride that this son of South Carolina has brought to the State. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, honor and recognize Dr. Walter B. Curry Jr. for his significant work in service to African-American history and heritage in this State and congratulate him on receiving the 2019 International African‑American Historical and Genealogy Society Book Award.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Walter B. Curry Jr.

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