**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE PORTION OF GOFF AVENUE IN THE CITY OF ORANGEBURG FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH UNITED STATES HIGHWAY 601 TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH UNITED STATES HIGHWAY 21 “DR. H.N. TISDALE AVENUE” AND ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS ALONG THIS PORTION OF HIGHWAY CONTAINING THIS DESIGNATION.

Whereas, named the eighth president of Claflin University in Orangeburg, S.C., in 1994, Dr. Henry N. Tisdale came in with a pledge that the storied university “will enter the 21st century with an eye to becoming a premier liberal arts institution” while maintaining the Christian principles upon which it was founded; and

Whereas, a 1965 honor graduate of Claflin, Dr. Tisdale wasted little time delivering on his promise, announcing the establishment of the Center for Excellence in Science and Mathematics four months after his arrival. With nearly $2 million in funding from the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy, he targeted strengthening academic programs in science, engineering, and mathematics to increase the number of minorities receiving bachelor’s degrees in these areas; and

Whereas, in his quest to make Claflin a premier liberal arts college, a state‑of‑the‑art television production studio began producing local shows with Time Warner Cable. The Alice Carson Tisdale Honors College was founded in 1994, and the award‑winning Freshman College in 1996; and

Whereas, under Dr. Tisdale’s leadership, Claflin saw a banner year in 1997. The Professional and Continuing Studies Center reached fruition, the Academic Plan for Excellence was launched, and a Leadership Development Center was established. A five‑year, $20 million capital campaign started in 1997 passed its goal in three years due to generous donations and by 2002 boasted more than $30 million. The following year saw the completion of the three‑building Peter and Eleanor Kleist Living and Learning Center complex, a leadership development center, and a campus center. A new entrance to give the complex a more appealing look won the statewide Outstanding Downtown Revitalization Award; and

Whereas, under Dr. Tisdale’s leadership and vision, Claflin’s enormous growth continued into the 21st Century with four new residential facilities, a music center for its nationally accredited music program, and the new James and Dorothy Z. Elmore Chapel. Other campus structures saw improvement or restoration. Some, like Ministers’ Hall, Tingley Memorial Hall, and H.V. Manning Library, all with historic significance, garnered the South Carolina Preservation Honors Award; and

Whereas, by 2008, the Claflin’s student population double from 1994 levels, the campus doubled in size, and the university was ranked the top Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in the country by Forbes.com. The university capped its 2016 capital campaign by raising $105 million, surpassing its $96.4 million goal, built a $12.5 million coed residential facility, launched fully online undergraduate and graduate programs, and in 2016‑2017, became the first HBCU in the state to offer registered nurse (RN) and bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) degrees. At the same time, alumni support soared to a high of 52.2 percent; and

Whereas, Dr. Tisdale is the recipient of the Order of the Palmetto, the State’s highest civilian award, the NAACP Educator of the Year Award, the Higher Education Leadership Foundation Award, the I. DeQuincey Newman Humanitarian Award, and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education Distinguished Alumni Award, among others. He also holds honorary doctorate degrees from Hofstra University and South Carolina State University; and

Whereas, Dr. Tisdale serves on the boards of directors of the UNCF, the American Council on Education Commission on Effective Leadership, the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges Council of Presidents, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church, and the Orangeburg County Development Commission. Memberships include the Claflin University National Alumni Association, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and the Orangeburg Rotary Club; and

Whereas, Dr. Tisdale and his wife, Alice Carson Tisdale, are the parents of two children, Danica Camille Tisdale Fisher and Brandon Keith Tisdale, and the proud grandparents of Asa and Anansa Fisher. They are active members of Trinity United Methodist Church in Orangeburg; and

Whereas, it is fitting and proper that members of the South Carolina General Assembly forever honor Dr. H. N. Tisdale for his unwavering devotion to and vision for Claflin University, which will be felt for generations to come, by naming a portion of Goff Avenue in the City of Orangeburg in his honor. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That members of the General Assembly request the Department of Transportation name the portion of Goff Avenue in the City of Orangeburg from its intersection with United States Highway 601 to its intersection with United States Highway 21 “Dr. H.N. Tisdale Avenue” and erect appropriate markers or signs along this portion of highway containing this designation.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Department of Transportation.

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