**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR SOUTH CAROLINA NATIVE SON DONNIE MCCLURKIN, WORLD‑RENOWNED GOSPEL SINGER, COMPOSER, RADIO HOST, AND MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL, AND TO RECOGNIZE HIM FOR HIS STRONG SUPPORT OF THE CHESTER COMMUNITY.

Whereas, born in Chester on November 9, 1959, Donnie McClurkin has become a vocalist, composer, radio host, accomplished entertainer, and church pastor of the highest caliber and personal achievement. He has won three Grammy Awards, ten Stellar Awards, two BET Awards, two Soul Train Awards, one Dove Award, and one NAACP Image Award. He is a top‑selling Gospel music artist, selling over ten million albums worldwide. *Variety* dubbed him a “Reigning King of Urban Gospel”; and

Whereas, however, in the midst of all his success, Donnie has never forgotten his hometown of Chester and the strong family ties there. To this day, he continually blesses it in numerous ways, including fundraising for worthy causes throughout the community; and

Whereas, Donnie McClurkin was a victim of childhood tragedy and turmoil, but he found solace through a church and the influence of an aunt who sang background vocals with Gospel‑music musician Andraé Crouch. By the time he was a teenager, Donnie had formed the McClurkin Singers. Later, he formed another group, the New York Restoration Choir, with recordings from as early as 1975; and

Whereas, in 1989, he was hired as an associate minister at Marvin Winans’ Perfecting Church in Detroit, Michigan, and served as an assistant to Winans for over a decade. In 2001, Donnie was ordained and sent out by Winans to establish Perfecting Faith Church in Freeport, New York, where he is now senior pastor; and

Whereas, a friendship with a Warner Alliance executive resulted in his signing to the label for his 1996 self‑titled LP. The disc, which featured the perennially popular “Stand,” went gold shortly after being publicly lauded by Oprah Winfrey. At the *48th Annual Grammy Awards*, he won in the category Traditional Soul Gospel Album for *Psalms, Hymns & Spiritual Songs*. Donnie McClurkin is best known for his hit songs “Stand” and “We Fall Down,” which were played in heavy rotation on both Gospel and urban radio. His three solo albums have topped the Billboard charts; and

Whereas, dovetailing off the success of his near double‑platinum album, *Live in London and More*, Donnie released *Psalms, Hymns & Spiritual Songs* (2005) and *We All Are One: Live in Detroit* (2009), which also topped Billboard charts across various musical genres. His love for people and his desire to share Gospel music globally is the reason he includes a language medley of Japanese, Russian, Spanish, and Dutch in most live performances; and

Whereas, a man’s gifts make room for him, and Donnie’s gifts found a place for him in the world of radio, as well. Tom Versen and Tony Sisti of T&T Creative signed him to a radio syndication deal with advertising giant Dial‑Global and syndicator Gary Bernstein. T&T Creative provided a mobile recording studio in Pastor Donnie’s church that he also can take on the road. Donnie greatly enjoys his radio duties and is thankful for the impact he is able to have on his listeners. Further, in 2009, he broadcast his own television series, *Perfecting Your Faith*, on cable television. His TV appearances include *Good Morning America*, CBS’s *The Early Show*, *The View*, *Girlfriends*, and *The Parkers*. He also has been featured in such films as *The Gospel* and *The Fighting Temptations*; and

Whereas, appreciatively, the House takes great pleasure in celebrating the achievements of the legendary Donnie McClurkin, one of South Carolina’s own. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor South Carolina native son Donnie McClurkin, world‑renowned Gospel singer, composer, radio host, and minister of the Gospel, and recognize him for his strong support of the Chester community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Donnie McClurkin.

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