**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE REVEREND AZALEE REBEKAH CHAPLIN BISHOP OF COLUMBIA ON THE OCCASION OF HER EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HER A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MUCH HAPPINESS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are delighted to learn that the Reverend Azalee Rebekah Chaplin Bishop of Columbia will celebrate her eightieth birthday on January 13, 2019; and

Whereas, Azalee Bishop is known nationally and internationally for her ability to teach, preach, train, and motivate Christian workers. She is a retired pastor, a community and civic leader, and a thirty‑three‑year program administrator with the Department of Social Services in Richland and Fairfield counties. She is also the founder and producer of the well‑known *Morning Break With Jesus*, a daily devotional broadcast with a listener base of thousands across South Carolina; and

Whereas, after graduating with honors from Newberry’s Gallman High School in 1956, the young Azalee continued her education at Good Samaritan School of Nursing and Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina. Graduate studies followed, culminating in a doctorate earned at Spirit and Truth Seminary in Richmond, Virginia; and

Whereas, Dr. Bishop has served as a trailblazer in a variety of disciplines. She is founder of Grandma’s House, an after‑school program for low‑income, academically challenged youth in Columbia. One of her most recent life‑changing experiences was a mission trip to Senegal, Africa. Grace Bible College and School of Divinity, her brainchild, has been a beacon for wisdom, understanding, and knowledge of God’s purpose for many national and international religious leaders. In 2015, the State of South Carolina was proud of the establishment of the Reverend Dr. Azalee C. Bishop Wisdom Center; and

Whereas, the wife of Bishop Robert L. Bishop, her childhood sweetheart, Azalee Bishop enjoyed a marriage of more than forty‑seven years before her husband’s passing. The Lord blessed the couple with six children, Angela M. Bishop Hammonds, Robin B. McRae, Roderick L. Bishop, Pastor Aaron Bishop, Debra Jones, and Sylvester Grazier, now deceased. Ten delightful grandchildren eventually joined the family; and

Whereas, Dr. Azalee Bishop is an ordained minister of the Gospel in the Gethsemane Baptist Association. Moreover, Bishop Robert L. Bishop and Reverend Azalee C. Bishop are founders of Grace Christian Ministries of Columbia. Past affiliations and accomplishments include the Buffalo New York Urban League, U.S. Army Multifamily and Couple Therapy Consortium, Greater Columbia Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance Executive Board, Empire State Baptist Educational Center (instructor), Black Adoption Project Board, Christian Social Relations‑Women’s Missionary Society of the 7th Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Church (chair), Johnson C. Smith University Alumni Chapter (past chaplain), state PTA and NAACP, Catawba synod of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (group leader); and

Whereas, to honor Azalee at this very special time in her life, her family and friends will join with her to celebrate her eightieth birthday on January 12, 2019. The House is proud to honor this truly lovely lady at the celebration of her eightieth birthday, and the members join with her many well‑wishers in congratulating her on reaching this extraordinary milestone. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate the Reverend Azalee Rebekah Chaplin Bishop of Columbia on the occasion of her eightieth birthday and wish her a joyous birthday celebration and much happiness in the days ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Reverend Azalee Rebekah Chaplin Bishop.

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