**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE JAMES AND BERTHELMA JEFFCOAT OF COLUMBIA ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR SEVENTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY AND EXTEND BEST WISHES FOR MANY MORE YEARS OF BLESSING AND FULFILLMENT.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that James and Berthelma Jeffcoat of Columbia will celebrate their seventieth wedding anniversary on January 15, 2019; and

Whereas, in 1948, the couple met at a Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church Children’s Day program in Swansea. Married on January 15, 1949, James Jeffcoat and his sweetheart, the former Berthelma Starkes, have demonstrated a commitment to one another over the past seventy years that has served as an inspiration to all who know them; and

Whereas, James considers it one of the crowning achievements of his life that he was able to persuade Berthelma to become his dear wife. God has blessed them with ten fine children (among them a set of twins), James, Jr., Wilfred II, Fagner, Matthew, Floyd, Joseph, Patricia, Charles, Clarence, and Shirley. They also have eight daughters‑in‑law, Ethel, Virginia, Bertha Mae, Hazel, Delores, Sonia, Talesa, and Felecia, as well as one son‑in‑law, Barrie Lamont Jones. Further, the senior Jeffcoats are the proud grandparents of twenty, with nine extended grandchildren, and they are the delighted great‑grandparents of twenty‑eight, with fifteen extended great‑grandchildren. They have a family total of ninety‑one and a host of other loved ones and church members who consider them as parents or grandparents; and

Whereas, in 1954, James Jeffcoat was called into the ministry. Following this call, Reverend Jeffcoat pastored for fifty‑eight years, leading seven churches, Berthelma by his side, and preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Keeping Jesus first in their lives has contributed to the Jeffcoats’ long‑lasting love and marriage. Berthelma always says, “Take all your concerns to God in Jesus’ name and not to anyone else.” She stayed in prayer for her marriage, her family, and others; and

Whereas, the hospitable Jeffcoats have created an annual tradition that is eagerly anticipated. Every first Saturday in August for the past twenty‑nine years, they have hosted a family and friends’ day at their home, where they feed over two hundred family members, friends, neighbors, and strangers alike and enjoy fun and games; and

Whereas, their motto, “Follow me, even as I am a follower of Jesus the Christ,” and their theme song, “We’ve Come This Far by Faith,” derive from their strong devotion to the Lord; and

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the members of the House of Representatives express their felicitations to these two special South Carolinians on reaching the milestone of their seventieth wedding anniversary. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate James and Berthelma Jeffcoat of Columbia on the occasion of their seventieth wedding anniversary and extend best wishes for many more years of blessing and fulfillment.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to James and Berthelma Jeffcoat.

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