**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CELEBRATE WITH THE CONGREGATION AND PASTOR OF BRUSHY CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH AS THEY THANKFULLY REFLECT ON TWO HUNDRED TWENTY‑FIVE YEARS OF GOD’S GRACE IN SERVICE TO HIM AND THEIR COMMUNITY AND TO DESIGNATE MARCH 17, 2019, AS “BRUSHY CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH DAY” IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that Brushy Creek Baptist Church, one of the oldest churches in Greenville County, will celebrate its quasquibicentennial on March 17, 2019; and

Whereas, in 1794, five men gathered on horseback on a creek bank off the Enoree River more than two and a quarter centuries ago during the first term of United States President George Washington to form Brushy Creek Baptist Church in Taylors, and today its membership rolls exceed three thousand four hundred; and

Whereas, the oldest church to continue to operate under the same name in the county, Brushy Creek Baptist is commonly called the “Mother Church of Greenville” for its role in constituting and establishing an estimated twenty churches in the region, including First Baptist churches of Greenville and Taylors; and

Whereas, Brushy Creek Baptist Church in Taylors was one of the first churches to establish Sunday school when the church began its program in 1830, and six years later women were given a voice in the church’s operation; and

Whereas, in 1856, the church first collected seventeen dollars to support missions and today contributes hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to local, domestic, and international missions; and

Whereas, James C. Furman served as the first President of Furman University in Greenville from 1859 to 1879 while serving as the pastor of Brushy Creek, and the church continued to support a number of pastors and operations at the University for decades; and

Whereas, Brushy Creek Baptist established a Women’s Missionary Society in 1881, one of the first churches in the State to do so; and

Whereas, as a long‑standing participant within the South Carolina Baptist Convention, Brushy Creek Baptist Church has supported its pastors who have also served as leaders of the Convention or as Convention presidents in order to guide others; and

Whereas, Brushy Creek Baptist has opened its doors to all in the community, regardless of race, creed, or color, engaging thousands with events such as the Journey Through Bethlehem, the Easter Egg Bash, and the Tabernacle Experience; and

Whereas, worshiping on the same intersection in Taylors where its original, simple log‑cabin meeting house stood, the congregation of Brushy Creek has successfully transitioned across centuries from a rural country church to a diverse suburban epicenter for Christ; and

Whereas, the members of Brushy Creek Baptist Church have survived wars, the Great Depression, segregation and reconciliation, economic recessions, and more while serving as a beacon of hope and light to those living in Greenville County and beyond, and the House of Representatives rejoices with them upon their quasquibicentennial celebration. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, celebrate with the congregation and pastor of Brushy Creek Baptist Church as they thankfully reflect on two hundred twenty‑five years of God’s grace in service to Him and their community and designate March 17, 2019, as “Brushy Creek Baptist Church Day” in the State of South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Reverend Jeremy Roberts, pastor of Brushy Creek Baptist Church.

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