**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. WILLIAM FRANK “BILL” GIBSON AND MRS. LOTTIE BEAL GIBSON FOR THEIR ADVANCEMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, THEIR ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF THE POOR, AND THEIR LEADERSHIP IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.

Whereas, it is altogether fitting and proper that the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives should pause in their deliberations to express their profound appreciation for the life and work of Dr. and Mrs. William Frank “Bill” Gibson; and

Whereas, Dr. William Frank “Bill” Gibson, a dentist in Greenville, was a passionate civil rights leader who became a drum major for justice in the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, he chaired the first voter‑education project in Greenville, and his successful fight for single‑member districts facilitated the election of blacks to local‑ and state‑elected offices; and

Whereas, Dr. Gibson founded the Black Council for Progress in Greenville to negotiate fair‑share agreements with local government and businesses; and

Whereas, he headed the South Carolina NAACP chapter for eighteen years, and his service at the local and state levels led to his service as chairman of the NAACP National Board of Directors from 1985 to 1996; and

Whereas, at the helm of the largest and most respected Civil Rights organization, Dr. Gibson was highly successful in leveraging economic opportunities nationwide; and

Whereas, his beloved wife, Lottie Beal Gibson, was a champion of the poor for over fifty years through her leadership on the board of SHARE and numerous other organizations; and

Whereas, born in Seneca, she directed student‑support programs at Greenville Technical College for over thirty years and was elected to serve on the Greenville County Council in 1992; and

Whereas, an educator and Civil Rights activist, Mrs. Gibson persisted in her efforts to see the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., become a holiday for Greenville county employees; and

Whereas, together Dr. and Mrs. Gibson reared four fine children: Bill, Jr.; Norman “Tim”; Ken; and Gaybriel. They blessed their parents with the affection of ten adoring grandchildren: Jasmine; Samantha; Brittany; Zachary; Savannah; Takeesha; Sara; Christian; Bill, III; and Doyle; and

Whereas, although Dr. Gibson passed away in M ay 2002 at the age of sixty‑nine and Mrs. Gibson in December 2016 at the age of eighty‑six, their lives and legacies will continue to inspire generations to come in their passion to serve their fellow man. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Dr. William Frank “Bill” Gibson and Mrs. Lottie Beal Gibson for their advancement of social justice, their advocacy on behalf of the poor, and their leadership in the Civil Rights Movement.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Dr. William Frank “Bill” Gibson and Mrs. Lottie Beal Gibson.

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