**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE HONORABLE KAY PATTERSON FOR MORE THAN THREE DECADES OF SERVICE IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND TO EXPRESS PROFOUND GRATITUDE FOR HIS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PALMETTO STATE.

Whereas, it is altogether fitting and proper that the South Carolina House of Representatives should pause to honor Kay Patterson for his long and distinguished service to citizens of this great State; and

Whereas, born in Darlington County on January 11, 1931, he was the son of James and Leila Patterson and was reared by his grandmothers, Mrs. Meta B. Patterson and Mrs. Emma Joseph; and

Whereas, after graduating from Lincoln High School in Sumter in 1949, Senator Patterson attended Claflin College from 1949 to 1951, where he joined the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and Edisto Lodge No. 39 Prince Hall Masons. In the patriotic tradition of the sons of South Carolina, he served in the United States Marine Corps from 1951 to 1953, attaining the rank of sergeant; and

Whereas, he earned a baccalaureate degree in social sciences at Allen University in 1956 and pursued additional education at Temple University. In 1971, he earned a master’s degree in education from South Carolina State College; and

Whereas, Senator Patterson taught for fourteen years at W. A. Perry Middle School, C. A. Johnson Preparatory Academy, and Benedict College and then served for sixteen years as a UniServ representative with the South Carolina Education Association from which he retired in June 1986; and

Whereas, a member of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, he has served as senior warden of the church’s vestry and as secretary and treasurer of the vestry. Deeply committed to his community, Senator Patterson has been involved in such civic and community organizations as the North Columbia Civic Club, and he has a life membership in the NAACP; and

Whereas, he continued to serve his profession as a member of the Education Commission of the States, the State Reorganization Commission, and the Southern Regional Education Board; and

Whereas, in 1974, Senator Patterson was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives where he served for ten years, and he began serving the citizens of Richland County in District #19 in the South Carolina Senate in 1985 for another twenty‑three years; and

Whereas, he served on numerous committees, including Banking & Insurance, Corrections & Penology, Education, Finance, and Transportation, and he served as commissioner for the South Carolina Department of Highways and Public Transportation; and

Whereas, in 1990, Senator Patterson became the chairman of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus, and he was elected by the South Carolina House Education Committee in January 1983 to serve on the University of South Carolina Trustee Board, the first black to serve on the board since Reconstruction; and

Whereas, he and his beloved wife, Jean James of Pinewood, reared two fine children, Eric and Pamela, who blessed him with the love of three adoring grandchildren: Eric, Jr.; Ashley; and Courtland; and

Whereas, honored for his service by induction into the Richland One Hall of Fame in 2007, Senator Patterson has championed the cause of the poor and downtrodden with outspoken and fiery political oratory in order to promote change in the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, today Kay Patterson continues to inspire new generations of South Carolinians to emulate his leadership and dedication for the poor and downtrodden. 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 commend the Honorable Kay Patterson for more than three decades of service in the South Carolina General Assembly and express profound gratitude for his significant contributions to the Palmetto State.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Honorable Kay Patterson.

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