**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR BECKETT N. JENKINS OF JASPER COUNTY FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR GREAT COUNTRY DURING WORLD WAR II, TO EXTEND BELATED CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS ONE HUNDRED FIRST BIRTHDAY, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH HAPPINESS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Whereas, born March 10, 1918, in Garnett, Beckett N. Jenkins, the youngest and last surviving of eight children, was the son of Richmond and Penne Jenkins. His formative years with his parents were short but influential in his young life. His father, born into slavery on the Lawton Plantation in 1863, unfortunately was deceased, as was Beckett’s mother, by the time the boy was age five. However, he was raised by siblings in a close‑knit family; and

Whereas, Beckett was educated locally in Robertsville and Penn Normal Industrial and Agricultural School in Frogmore. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1941 during World War II and began his military career at Camp Stewart, later being stationed at Fort Eustis and Camp Pendleton. In 1945, he completed his military service as a corporal in the 994 Quartermasters Service, Pacific Theater, where he served under the command of General Douglas MacArthur during the battle of Leyte Gulf in the retaking of the Philippines. Beckett is now one of the oldest surviving World War II veterans in this country; and

Whereas, having returned to the United States after the war, Beckett stayed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, before returning to the family homestead in Garnett. There, he farmed and operated a hauling business; and

Whereas, Beckett met and married Mable Janet Browne in 1951 and enjoyed fifty‑five years of marriage until her death in 2007. To this union, three children were born: Vera, Harold, and Oliver. Mable and Beckett were very active members of Mount Zion AME Church, as well as effective county and state agents for voter registration and civil rights. Beckett enjoyed farming, fishing, and hunting in his spare time; and

Whereas, his first retirement, from J.P. Stevens at age sixty‑two, took place after thirty years of service. Never one to sit still, he started working locally at the Carswell Plantation and registered his second retirement at the venerable age of eighty‑nine; and

Whereas, this son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, uncle, cousin, friend, and neighbor always demonstrates a sense of loyalty and concern for his fellow man. His love for his family, church, community, country, and farming is honored, and he is loved and respected by all who know him; and

Whereas, the House takes great pleasure in saluting Beckett Jenkins as a proud veteran of World War II, and the members also are pleased to join with his family and friends in congratulating him on reaching the extraordinary milestone of his one hundred first birthday, which he attained on March 10, 2019. 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 Beckett N. Jenkins of Jasper County for his service to our great country during World War II, extend belated congratulations on the occasion of his one hundred first birthday, and wish him much happiness in the days ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Beckett N. Jenkins.

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