**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR THE REVEREND DR. JOHN L. WILLIAMS, PASTOR OF FLAT CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH IN DARLINGTON, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF GOSPEL MINISTRY AT FLAT CREEK AND TO WISH HIM GOD’S RICHEST BLESSINGS AS HE CONTINUES TO SERVE THE LORD.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina House of Representatives honors those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to nurture the souls of men. The Reverend Dr. John L. Williams, pastor of Flat Creek Baptist Church in Darlington, stands among their number as an outstanding minister of the Gospel, one much admired by colleagues, congregation, and area residents at large; and

Whereas, this native of Greenwood and son of Thomas Williams and the late Martha B. Williams, is a graduate of North Carolina A&T where he earned a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering. He went on to earn his Masters in Business Administration from Webster University, as well as his Doctorate of Ministry from United Theological Seminary under the mentorship of Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Jr. and Dr. Ivan D. Hicks; and

Whereas, answering the call of his country, this patriotic American served our great nation in the United States Army and is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm; and

Whereas, Pastor Williams was licensed to preach by the congregation at Macedonia Baptist Church in Greenwood on August 29, 1999. In 2004, he was ordained by Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Greenwood. That same year he was called to Flat Creek Baptist Church where he continues to serve today; and

Whereas, Pastor Williams’ vision for Flat Creek seeks to transform the community surrounding the church. Under his leadership, the church has established ministries that assist senior citizens with drug prescriptions and reimburse college students for books and supplies. Additionally, Flat Creek has partnered with Harvest Hope Food Bank to feed the hungry in the Darlington community; and

Whereas, Pastor Williams has served as a member of many professional and civic organizations and on several boards including serving as the vice president of St. John Baptist Association Church School and as the first vice moderator for the Darlington County Union. Moreover, he is a certified teacher for the South Carolina Baptist Congress of Christian Education; and

Whereas, in addition to his service to the Lord, Pastor Williams works as a senior engineer in Florence and finds strength for his labors in the firm support of his wife, Elnita Lipford Williams; and

Whereas, because of his many years of spiritual nourishment of the people of South Carolina, Pastor Williams deserves grateful thanks, as well as fervent wishes for God’s best in his life and ministry, as he continues to run the race the Lord has set before him. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor the Reverend Dr. John L. Williams, pastor of Flat Creek Baptist Church in Darlington, on the occasion of his fifteenth anniversary of gospel ministry at Flat Creek and wish him God’s richest blessings as he continues to serve the Lord.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Reverend Dr. John L. Williams.

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