**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEMORATE THE MOMENTOUS OCCASION OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH IN EDGEFIELD, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND TO CELEBRATE, WITH REVEREND OSCAR W. BROWN AND HIS CONGREGATION, THE CENTURY AND A HALF OF COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives deem it appropriate to pause in their deliberations to honor a century and a half of dedication to the Lord and community of Edgefield by the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church; and

Whereas, in 1869, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church was purchased by founder Reverend Alexander Bettis from a white congregation with declining membership; and

Whereas, just shy of a century later, in 1968, the church was renovated, adding a Sunday School room. The church was further expanded in 1980 with additional Sunday School rooms and a fellowship hall. In the late 1980s, the original baptismal pool was restored; and

Whereas, further upgrades to the church and surrounding area were made with the installation of a covered area for picnics and the purchase of land from the County to upgrade the cemetery; and

Whereas, with its membership of approximately one hundred, Pleasant Grove Baptist church offers weekly worship service, Sunday School, and Bible study; and

Whereas, following in the example of Jesus, the members of the church are committed to bettering their community, participating in outreach ministry such as visiting nursing homes and prisons and providing gift bags containing personal‑care items. Furthermore, the congregation has provided financial aid for disaster areas when needed; and

Whereas, the one hundred fiftieth anniversary will be celebrated on May 11, 2019, with a family picnic and church banquet. The congregation has been gearing up for the main event by joining in a one‑night revival hosted by the church each month, which began in January; and

Whereas, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church is flourishing under the spiritual guidance of Reverend Oscar W. Brown; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the legacy of love and faith exhibited by the members of the historic Pleasant Grove Baptist Church and look forward to many more years of the continuation of this legacy. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, commemorate the momentous occasion of the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Edgefield, South Carolina, and celebrate, with the Reverend Oscar W. Brown and his congregation, the century and a half of commitment to the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

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