**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE REVEREND BLAKELY N. SCOTT, PASTOR OF FIRST NAZARETH BAPTIST CHURCH IN COLUMBIA, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF GOSPEL MINISTRY AT FIRST NAZARETH 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 Blakely N. Scott, pastor of First Nazareth Baptist Church in Columbia, 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 Columbia and son of Blakely, Jr., and Lillie Mae Scott is a graduate of Palmer College, the University of South Carolina, Morris College School of Religion, and the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. He received a doctor of divinity degree in May 1993 from Morris College; and

Whereas, a life member of First Nazareth Baptist Church, Pastor Scott was licensed to preach by the congregation of his church in 1974. In 1975, he was ordained by the Wateree Baptist Association‑Upper Division. He served as pastor of Mill Creek Baptist Church of Lykesland for two years and then was called to Mount Moriah Baptist Church of Hopkins, where he served until 2017. He became pastor of First Nazareth Baptist in 1979; and

Whereas, Pastor Scott also serves as moderator of the Midlands Baptist Association, Inc. In 1998, he retired from Benedict College, where he began as assistant director of Auxiliary Services and later served as college minister and instructor of religion and philosophy. In past years, he served as moderator of the Wateree Baptist Association‑Upper Division, dean of the Young People’s Christian Assembly‑Benedict College, and assistant secretary and secretary of the Gethsemane Baptist Association. Until 2017, he was on the Morris College School of Religion Extension Program faculty; and

Whereas, in addition, Pastor Scott serves his community in various capacities. He has served on the Baptist Medical Center Hospice Board, Community Care Board, Connie Maxwell Children’s Home Advisory Board, and Columbia Housing Development Corporation Board. He is a former member of the KOBAN Board in Columbia and Morris College Board of Trustees in Sumter; and

Whereas, in recognition of his spirit of excellence and committed service to the people of South Carolina, Blakely Scott has been granted various awards, among them the prestigious Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina’s highest civilian honor; and

Whereas, under the forty‑year pastorate of Blakely Scott, First Nazareth Baptist Church has enjoyed many milestone achievements, some of the more recent being the launching of a radio ministry, Baptist Training Union, Sunday evening worship, women’s conference, internet broadcasting, and veterans ministry, as well as the dedication of a new sanctuary and celebration of the church’s one hundred thirty‑fifth anniversary; and

Whereas, Pastor Scott and his wife, Mary, are the proud parents of two adult daughters, Mina Scott Barnes and M’Lilian L. Scott; and

Whereas, to honor him at this special time in his life, his congregation and other friends will gather to celebrate Pastor Scott on Sunday, July 14, 2019. The House of Representatives is pleased to add its collective voice of praise to the many tributes flowing in to this dedicated pastor, and the members wish him God’s best 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, congratulate the Reverend Blakely N. Scott, pastor of First Nazareth Baptist Church in Columbia, on the occasion of his fortieth anniversary of Gospel ministry at First Nazareth 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 the Reverend Blakely N. Scott.

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