**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR PASTOR ANTHONY “AJ” JOHNSON OF MCCONNELLS FOR HIS THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF FRUITFUL MINISTRY; TO THANK HIM FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY, OUR STATE, AND OUR NATION; AND TO WISH HIM GOD’S RICHEST BLESSINGS AS HE CONTINUES TO SERVE THE LORD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives take great pleasure in commending Pastor Anthony “AJ” Johnson for his years of outstanding service to his congregations, his community, and his church; and

Whereas, a native of Baltimore, Maryland, he is the fourth son of the late Pastor Nathaniel and Lurlena Johnson, and he was educated in the Baltimore City public school system and graduated from Northwestern High School; and

Whereas, one of God’s called and chosen preachers, Pastor Johnson earned a bachelor’s degree in religious studies at Morgan State University and a Master of Religious Education Degree from Andersonville Theological Seminary; and

Whereas, he began a preaching ministry in 1984 at Saint Phillips Baptist Church where he was licensed to preach. Late in 1985, he was called to serve as the third pastor of Mount Hebron Baptist Church of Clifton Park in Baltimore, Maryland; and

Whereas, while ministering in Baltimore, Pastor Johnson served as a guest chaplain for the Baltimore City Council, the Maryland State Senate, the United States Senate, and the Baltimore Ravens professional football team; and

Whereas, very active in the faith community in Baltimore, he served as first vice president of Clergy United for the Renewal of East Baltimore and of the Maryland Baptist Convention and as a member of the Baptist Minister’s Conference, Baptist Pastor’s Conference, of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, and the Baptist Missionary Convention; and

Whereas, Pastor Johnson was an outspoken community activist in Baltimore, credited with assisting in securing jobs for people and in eliminating drug activities in the East Baltimore Community, for which he received numerous citations and awards and had a street named in his honor for his efforts in the Clifton Park Community of East Baltimore; and

Whereas, he relocated to the Charlotte area in 1999 and was asked to serve as the interim pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church in McConnells, and a few months later, he was called and installed to serve as pastor. In 2005, Pastor Johnson was awarded a Doctorate of Divinity from Agape Bible College and Seminary, where he served as an instructor; and

Whereas, he currently serves as a member of the Sandy River Baptist Association, of the MLK Task Force, on the executive boards of Hampton University Minister’s Conference and of the Education Missionary South Carolina Baptist Convention, on the Rock Hill Board Foundation, and on the advisory board for the South Carolina Highway Patrol Region 5. He also is a past president of the Rock Hill Branch of the NAACP; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciates Pastor Johnson’s love for the Lord, for helping others, and for preaching the Gospel. Like Isaiah of old who said, “I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, ‘Here am I; send me,’” he has faithfully followed the call of the Lord. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor Pastor Anthony “AJ” Johnson of McConnells for his thirty-five years of fruitful ministry; thank him for his many years of service to the community, our State, and our nation; 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 Pastor Anthony “AJ” Johnson.

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