**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE JANIE AND WILLIE FRANKS OF COLUMBIA ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY AND TO EXTEND BEST WISHES FOR MANY MORE YEARS OF BLESSING AND FULFILLMENT.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that Janie and Willie Franks of Columbia celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on September 27, 2019; and

Whereas, few successes in life are greater than a marriage that endures the test of time and grows stronger with each passing year, for the long‑lasting love and support of a spouse are unmatched in their importance and cannot be overestimated; and

Whereas, Janie Franks is the youngest daughter of Edward and Edith Crim of Sumter. She graduated from Ebenezer High School in 1964 before beginning work in local Head Start programs; and

Whereas, Willie Franks is the oldest child of Willie and Evelyn Franks of Pollocksville, North Carolina. Willie graduated from Jones Senior High School in 1964 before first working in Portsmouth, Virginia, and later serving four years as a member of the United States Air Force; and

Whereas, Janie and Willie met in the fall of 1968 at an Allen University football game. They began dating almost immediately and, after a brief courtship, were married on September 27, 1969. Janie and Willie have demonstrated a commitment to one another over the past fifty‑plus years that has served as an inspiration to all who know them; and

Whereas, the couple was blessed with three fine children, Tonya Denise in 1970, Kimberly Celeste in 1973, and Valencia René in 1979. They are also the proud grandparents of two grandchildren, Zachary William Franks‑Hopkins and Ainsley Marie Jeter Shrouds; and

Whereas, Janie retired in 2004 after twenty‑eight years of state service with the Department of Mental Health; Willie retired in 2012 from the South Carolina State Housing & Finance Development Authority; and

Whereas, in 1978, the pair became involved with the Ridgewood Missionary Baptist Church (RMBC). The two were ordained as deacon and deaconess in 1998. Both Janie and Willie provided valuable service to the church by stepping into leadership roles. Janie served as former president of the deaconess board and was a member of the Young Women’s Auxiliary. She currently serves on the RMBC Women’s Ministry Board. Willie has served as chairman of the deacon board and as a member of both the musical choir and male chorus. He currently serves as assistant finance committee co‑chair and as president of United Baptist Deacons of Greater Columbia; and

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the members of the House of Representatives express their felicitations to these two South Carolinians on reaching the milestone of their golden wedding anniversary. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Janie and Willie Franks of Columbia on the occasion of their fiftieth wedding anniversary and extend best wishes for many more years of blessing and fulfillment.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Janie and Willie Franks.

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