**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE CHARLES BONAPARTE, SR., OF CHARLESTON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HIM A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MUCH HAPPINESS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that Charles Bonaparte, Sr., of Charleston, on December 2, 2019, celebrated the milestone event of his one hundredth birthday; and

Whereas, the son of the Reverend Paul Bonaparte and Henrietta Lincoln Bonaparte, Charles Bonaparte, Sr., was born the oldest of four children on December 2, 1919, in Berkeley County; and

Whereas, he was educated in the public schools of Charleston and graduated from Burke Industrial on June 13, 1939. Four years later, in 1943, the young Charles joined the U.S. Navy. He serviced vessels at the U.S. Naval Arms Depot in Highland, Maryland, and was honorably discharged in 1946 as a seaman second class. He has been retired for thirty‑eight years from the Charleston Naval Shipyard, where he worked as a joiner; and

Whereas, on April 7, 1946, Charles married Henrietta Gethers Bonaparte (now deceased). To this union were born seven sons and three daughters, who gave their parents the joy of fifteen grandchildren, fifteen great‑grandchildren, and two great‑great‑grandchildren; and

Whereas, in 1960, this man of strong faith joined Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church (UMC), which his father co‑founded. Charles has served the Lord there faithfully for forty‑nine years in various capacities, such as class leader and lay speaker, as well as Mt. Carmel UMC Finance Committee member and Building Fund Committee member. The oldest member of his congregation, he attends almost every Sunday and is a former Father of the Year; and

Whereas, finally, it is not to be forgotten that Charles Bonaparte, Sr., an avid reader with a sharp intellect, is also a proud fan of the Carolina Panthers, Atlanta Braves, and Golden State Warriors; and

Whereas, to honor him at this very special time in his life, family and friends joined with him to celebrate his centennial birthday on Saturday, November 30, 2019; and

Whereas, it is a great pleasure to honor this son of South Carolina at the celebration of his one hundredth birthday and to join with his family and friends in congratulating him on reaching this important life milestone. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Charles Bonaparte, Sr., of Charleston on the occasion of his one hundredth birthday and wish him a joyous birthday celebration and much happiness in the days ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Charles Bonaparte, Sr.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑