**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. LONNIE RANDOLPH, JR., OF COLUMBIA FOR HIS DEDICATED COMMUNITY SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF THAT FAIR CITY AND TO WISH HIM MUCH CONTINUED SUCCESS AND FULFILLMENT IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Whereas, it is a great pleasure to recognize those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to the welfare of this great State and nation’s citizenry. Having spent his life serving others, Dr. Lonnie Randolph, Jr., exemplifies such South Carolinians; and

Whereas, a native of Columbia, he is a graduate of Dreher High School. He continued his education, majoring in biology and earning a degree from Benedict College before continuing on to Southern College of Optometry, where he received his Doctor of Optometry in 1977; and

Whereas, Dr. Randolph has maintained a private optometric practice in Columbia for over forty‑four years. He was awarded contracts to provide optometric services by the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and the South Carolina Department of Corrections. Active in his profession, Dr. Randolph has served as president of the South Carolina Optometric Association and has been recognized as Optometrist of the Year. In addition to managing the responsibilities involved with his private practice, Dr. Randolph founded Palmetto Health’s free eye clinic, which provides care for students in K‑12, to which he volunteers his services as a physician; and

Whereas, Dr. Randolph’s history of community service is extensive and long standing. In the interest of advancing human and civil rights, he devoted fourteen years to serving as president of the South Carolina State Conference of the NAACP. His service was honored with the South Carolina NAACP President Emeritus Medal in October 2017. He remains active as a member of the state executive committee and a trusted advisor to the State Conference. He also serves as a member of the NAACP Foundation board of trustees, assigned to Program Advocacy and Image Awards Nominations Committees. In 2011, he was awarded the Order of the Palmetto for his continued contributions to human rights’ services; and

Whereas, Dr. Randolph was also a key strategist in the Campaign for Dignity in South Carolina, which led efforts to remove the confederate battle flag from the South Carolina State House grounds, and assisted in organizing the first King Day at the Dome march in Columbia; and

Whereas, Dr. Randolph is also the former chairman of the South Carolina Consumer Affairs Commission, where he provided over thirty‑one years of distinguished volunteer service. He provided service to the community by associating with the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation, Columbia Free Medical Clinic Board, and the South Carolina Commission for the Blind Diabetes Task Force. He has also donated his time, talents, and resources to the Benedict College athletic department; and

Whereas, Dr. Randolph continues to serve his community as an active member of the University of South Carolina Citizens Advisory Council, the Mission Health Free Clinics, and the Columbia Branch NAACP where he served as president for twenty years; and

Whereas, it is recognized that the success of the State of South Carolina, the strength of its communities, and the vitality of American society as a whole depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of individuals like Dr. Lonnie Randolph, Jr., who use their talents and resources to serve others. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Dr. Lonnie Randolph, Jr., of Columbia for his dedicated community service to the people of that fair city and to wish him much continued success and fulfillment in the days ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Lonnie Randolph, Jr.

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