**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE CAMDEN‑KERSHAW COUNTY BRANCH, NAACP, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS SEVENTY‑FIFTH ANNIVERSARY AND TO COMMEND THE BRANCH ON ITS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF CAMDEN AND KERSHAW COUNTY.

Whereas, in February 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded, becoming the nation’s oldest, largest, and most widely recognized grassroots‑based civil rights organization. In 1945, the Camden‑Kershaw County branch of this great organization was chartered, and in 2020 the branch will celebrate its seventy‑fifth “diamond” anniversary; and

Whereas, in the late forties, the newly fledged Camden‑Kershaw County branch was active in voter registration and other civil rights activities. During the civil rights movement of the sixties, great men of vision and leadership led the branch; and

Whereas, the branch held its first Freedom Fund Banquet in 1986, and in 1987 its first Woman of the Year contest. In 1990, the branch filed suit in federal district court to change the at‑large election method to single‑member districts in certain local elections including school board and county council elections. The first school board election under the single‑member district plan was held in 1992. In 1994, the election held under the single‑member district plan for Kershaw County Council brought two African Americans to the school board and county council. The branch continued to remain active in black caucus, school board, city council, housing, and other meetings that pertain to political and economic equality for all people; and

Whereas, in 1991, the branch started an annual observance honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with a march. In 2010, the phenomenal MLK Day Community Choir was birthed; and

Whereas, the Fun Fest was born in 2013 for the purpose of helping to establish unity in the community and build stronger families in a safe and positive environment. At Fun Fest, everyone would enjoy food, fun, and games for all ages. There is also a health fair and, beginning in 2019, the distribution of free school supplies; and

Whereas, in August 2015, the branch participated in the American Journey for Justice, marching from Selma, Alabama, to Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas, the group partnered with Habitat for Humanity in January 2018 for the “Beloved Build” in Lugoff, commemorating fifty years of the Fair Housing Act. In June 2018, the Camden‑Kershaw County branch of the NAACP was a strong supporter of the All‑America City award for Kershaw County. At the October 2018 South Carolina state convention, the branch was honored with the Modjeska Simkins Award for sustained efforts and community outreach, support of housing and community development, and health advocacy; and

Whereas, in March 2019, the branch held its first retreat/training at Central Carolina Technical College, and in August of the same year, under the leadership of current branch president Sammie Tucker, Jr., the building committee helped secure the branch’s first office space in the then seventy‑four years of its existence; and

Whereas, the youth council was established in the 1950s and reactivated in 1982. As of January 2020, this award‑winning group of young people has more than seventy members and is still growing stronger. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, congratulate the Camden‑Kershaw County branch, NAACP, on the occasion of its seventy‑fifth anniversary and commend the branch on its many years of service to the people of Camden and Kershaw County.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mr. Sammie Tucker, Jr., president, for the Camden‑Kershaw County branch, NAACP.

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