**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE ESTHER RUTH BUTLER SIMS OF RICHLAND COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF HER NINETIETH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HER A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MANY YEARS OF CONTINUED HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is delighted to learn that Esther Sims will celebrate her ninetieth birthday surrounded by family and friends at an event to honor her; and

Whereas, the daughter of the late George and Esther L. Butler, she was born in Richland County on February 8, 1930, early in the twentieth century, and she has witnessed many remarkable social changes, technological advancements, and international developments that have spanned the globe from that time into the second decade of the twenty‑first century; and

Whereas, first in her class from Booker T. Washington High School, she earned a bachelor’s degree cum laude from Benedict College and a master’s degree from North Carolina Central University; and

Whereas, she taught for fifty‑seven plus years in public education on every level at Marlboro County Training School, Manning Training School in Clarendon County, Bethel High School in Richland County School District Two, and Wardlaw Junior High and W. J. Keenan High schools in Richland County School District One; and

Whereas, a faithful and active member of Zion Canaan Baptist Church, she has served in various positions on the deaconess board and has served missionary and youth endeavors within the church, and she has served on the South Carolina Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention Youth Auxiliary; and

Whereas, she has held leadership positions and been active in many community, civic, and cultural activities, such as president of the National Council of Negro Women; a charter member and the first president of the Columbia Urban League Guild; volunteer for Richland County Public Library; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; National Council of University Women; Informals Bridge Club; Sunday Scrabble Club; and Bethel Christian Camp; and

Whereas, she served as the first chairperson of Richland School District One Librarians Department, was one of three blacks in Richland School District One to integrate schools, and was the first black librarian to serve in a white school; and

Whereas, Mrs. Sims participated in the celebration for naming the public library after her former student, Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the National Children’s Defense Fund; and

Whereas, she has traveled abroad in Germany, France, Italy, and Amsterdam, and she enjoys reading, storytelling, word puzzles, and various creative writing; and

Whereas, among Mrs. Sims’ many honors she received the state’s 1979 South Carolina Human Relations Award and was a 1980 Living the Legacy Award recipient from the National Association of Negro Women, and a 2010 National Association of University Women Honoree, and a scholarship at Bethel Christian Camp was named in her honor for over thirty‑five years of camp service; and

Whereas, together with her beloved husband, the late Henry Marshall Sims, the former principal of Fairfield Middle School, she reared three fine daughters: Dr. Marshalita Sims Peterson, Terutha Rachelle Sims, and Evangelist Kemolet Gladyce Sims Mitchell. They have blessed their mother with the affection of five adoring grandchildren and five great‑grandchildren; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is pleased to honor this daughter of South Carolina at the celebration of her ninetieth birthday and join with her family and friends in congratulating her on reaching this extraordinary milestone. 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 Esther Ruth Butler Sims of Richland County on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday and wish her a joyous birthday celebration and many years of continued health and happiness.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Esther Ruth Butler Sims.

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