**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE DR. WALTER B. CURRY, JR., FOR HIS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND HERITAGE IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON RECEIVING THE 2019 INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BOOK AWARD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to recognize Dr. Walter B. Curry, Jr., for receiving the 2019 International African American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) Book Award at a ceremony on October 10, 2019, at the AAHGS Conference; and

Whereas, a native of Orangeburg, Dr. Curry earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from South Carolina State University and several graduate degrees in education, including a doctorate in curriculum and instruction from Argosy University; and

Whereas, he has had an outstanding career as a genealogist, educator, and founder of Renaissance Publications, LLC. He is currently a professor of education at Claflin University and formerly taught middle school social studies in urban and rural schools; and

Whereas, Dr. Curry’s award‑winning book, *The Thompson Family: Untold Stories from the Past (1830‑1960)*, is the first of several volumes, which chronicles the genealogical diversity and experiences of the Thompson family whose roots stretch back to the Skillet Community of Salley. The book includes relatives’ reflections and experiences that intersect with broader themes of African American life and history in the State. It is a powerful story of civic engagement and achievement in the face of adversity; and

Whereas, several narratives include a slave who purchased his freedom, a relative who served as a cook in the Confederate Army, a young relative who was tragically murdered, and a sharecropper who became a prominent soil conservationist; and

Whereas, Dr. Curry’s selection for the 2019 International AAHGS Book Award is a testament to the rich legacy of his family and the richness of African American history in Aiken County and throughout South Carolina. The competitive contest recognizes authors who examine and portray histories and genealogies of families with African ancestors in order to preserve African ancestral family history, genealogy, and cultural diversity; and

Whereas, an active leader in his community and profession, Dr. Curry is a member of several civic, historical, and professional societies, including the AAHGS, the Aiken‑Barnwell Genealogical Society, Friends of the Aiken County Museum, and the Aiken County Historical Society; and

Whereas, he currently resides in Columbia with his wife, Takiyah. Together, they have two fine sons, Braxton and Braylen; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives deeply appreciates the pride that this son of South Carolina has brought to the Palmetto State. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor and recognize Dr. Walter B. Curry, Jr., for his significant contributions to African American history and heritage in South Carolina and congratulate him on receiving the 2019 International African American Historical and Genealogical Society Book Award.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Walter B. Curry, Jr.

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