**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE NATHANIEL JONES OF CHARLESTON FOR A LIFE WELL LIVED IN SERVICE TO HIS COMMUNITY AND HIS COUNTRY AND TO WISH HIM MUCH CONTINUED SUCCESS AND FULFILLMENT IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina House of Representatives recognizes those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to the welfare of this great state’s and this great nation’s citizenry. Having spent his life serving others, Nathaniel Jones of Charleston exemplifies such South Carolinians; and

Whereas, born in 1938, this Charleston native began working at an early age. At the age of twelve, he was working at both Leslie Conyers’ store and Woodrow Motley’s Amoco service station on Meeting Street; and

Whereas, in 1958, Nathaniel joined the Army National Guard, which at that time was an all‑black battalion located in downtown Charleston, and served the Guard as a clerk typist. In 1959, he joined the U.S. Army and, after basic training at Fort Jackson, was stationed at Fort Gordon, Georgia. He again worked as a typist and traveled to Germany for three years’ service, during which time he served in a battalion specializing in engineering. He also worked as an EMT and as a driver for the Army. Upon leaving the service with an honorable discharge, he pondered what to do next in his life; and

Whereas, having decided he would train as a mortician, Nathaniel worked for Fielding Home for Funerals in South Carolina. In 1963, while awaiting the start of his school term at the Eckels College of Mortuary Science, Nathaniel drove to Washington to attend the historic first March on Washington, along with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and a crowd of 250,000 others. In later days, Nathaniel would participate in other such events; and

Whereas, in 1965, Nathaniel earned his degree in embalming, returned to the Palmetto State, and continued working for Fielding Home for Funerals. While working, Nathaniel attended Trident Technical College, from which he received a certificate as a machine operator. He next began working for La Cummins, where he was a “setup man” in the Small Engines Department; and

Whereas, in the 1970s, he undertook a job at the Naval Shipyard as small engine operator. While laid off, Nathaniel began selling life insurance, helping African Americans move out of “ten cents” weekly policies to monthly whole and term policies, which offered more coverage. At the same time, he worked at American Cannon, a black‑owned machine shop, where he was the lead man; and

Whereas, not long afterwards, Nathaniel was called back by the Naval Shipyard to work as a machine operator. After his retirement from that entity, he served Harmony Warehouse as a manager and worked with the Noisette Project for the Naval Shipyard until he fully retired; and

Whereas, in his community, Nathaniel worked tirelessly for his church, becoming a deacon at New Hope Baptist Church in 1986. For many years, he taught a Bible study he had founded, he served on the search committee that recommended the calling of Pastor Mack A. Gadsden as pastor of New Hope, and he worked hands‑on to improve the church’s facilities; and

Whereas, the members of the House of Representatives recognize 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 Nathaniel Jones 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, congratulate Nathaniel Jones of Charleston for a life well lived in service to his community and his country and wish him much continued success and fulfillment in the days ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Nathaniel Jones.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑