**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE AND COMMEND SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH AND THE CONGREGATION FOR THEIR YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE ORANGEBURG COMMUNITY AND TO CELEBRATE THE JOYOUS OCCASION OF THE CHURCH’S ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that Shiloh Baptist Church of Orangeburg will celebrate its centennial anniversary on Sunday, September 27, 2020, via conference call; and

Whereas, founded in 1920, the church was organized under the leadership of Deacon John Riley, along with others, whose mutual goal was to establish a blessed sanctuary for members to assemble and do the work of the Lord; and

Whereas, the church set the example for other Black churches to follow, and as it was the fourth Black church established during that time, it is was originally called Fourth Baptist Church; and

Whereas, the first worship service in the young church was held in a small wooden building on Cannon Street, currently Boswell Street. An old tin tub turned upside down with a board on top served as the step into the church; a potbelly wood stove was used to heat the building, and boards were nailed between trees to make tables for fellowship and serving food; and

Whereas, the first pastor of Fourth Baptist, Reverend Walker, served for several years and was succeeded by Reverend Leroy Peyton and then Reverend Bush. In 1955, Reverend Williams was called to serve the work at Fourth Baptist Church, and under his leadership, eight deacons were ordained; and

Whereas, about 1960, Reverend James Hayley became the congregation’s fifth pastor, and the church grew under his thirty‑year ministry, during which five deacons were ordained, the church was renovated, a small building and land next to the church were purchased for a fellowship hall, and Fourth Baptist Church became Shiloh Baptist Church; and

Whereas, in 1995, the illustrious Reverend Kenneth Carson was called to serve as the church’s pastor and achieve great things for Shiloh Baptist Church. Under his leadership, three deacons were ordained and a new fellowship hall was erected and years later was dedicated to the memory of First Lady Diane Shuler Carson. Today it is known as the Diane Shuler Carson Fellowship Hall; and

Whereas, the founders of Shiloh Baptist Church sought to build the church on the “Solid Rock” in order to leave a noble heritage, so that when the church was “tried in the fire,” it would come forth as pure gold. The members of the South Carolina House of Representatives desire to see the church continue to grow in God’s grace, His mercy, and His love in order that the members and the surrounding communities would be enriched. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate and commend Shiloh Baptist Church and the congregation for their years of dedicated service to the Orangeburg community and celebrate the joyous occasion of the church’s one hundredth anniversary.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Reverend Kenneth Carson.

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