**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE DR. JOHN A. PORTER OF BEAUFORT COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY, TO WISH HIM A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION, AND TO THANK HIM FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE IN GOSPEL MINISTRY AND IN THE MILITARY OF OUR GREAT COUNTRY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are delighted to learn that Dr. John A. Porter of Beaufort County is celebrating his seventieth birthday; and

Whereas, Dr. John A. Porter, a man after God’s own heart, was the fourth child born to Deacon John and Rachel Porter of Port Royal. After receiving his early education in the public schools of Beaufort, he earned his associate degree in business from Columbia College in Missouri and his bachelor’s degree in ministry and his master’s degree in pastoral studies from Covington Theological Seminary in Georgia. In addition, he completed the Morris College School of Religion Certification Program in 1998, and he attended the University of South Carolina at Beaufort from 1992 to 1994. In 2006, he received his doctorate in ministry and pastoral studies from Covington Theological Seminary; and

Whereas, Reverend Porter has a great love for the Lord. He confessed that love publicly in the fall of 1963, when he was baptized at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Port Royal. At Bethlehem Baptist, he faithfully served as an usher, Sunday school teacher, and member of the junior choir; and

Whereas, in 1968, Reverend Porter joined the United States Navy. He continued his walk with the Lord faithfully at various churches, such as Jamaican United Fellowship in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, St. Mary’s Missionary Baptist Church in Orlando, Florida, and First Baptist Church in Norfolk, Virginia; and

Whereas, it was at St. Mary’s Baptist Church that God began to elevate Reverend Porter. In March 1986, he was selected to serve as a deacon. One year later, in March 1987, he accepted the calling of God into the ministry; and

Whereas, after serving twenty‑three successful years in the Navy, Reverend Porter retired in 1991. He returned home and joined Tabernacle Baptist Church in Beaufort, where he served as an associate minister. In 1992, Reverend Porter was called to serve as pastor of Huspah Missionary Baptist Church in Hampton. Further, he has served as moderator of the Nazarene Baptist Union #1 (1993‑1998) and vice moderator of the Nazarene Baptist Association (1999‑2005), and he is presently moderator of the Nazarene Baptist Association. He also presently serves as a chaplain for the South Carolina Department of Corrections; and

Whereas, Dr. Porter is married to the former Hazel Gregory of St. Helena Island, and God has blessed them with three children, John Jr., James, and Rachel; two daughters‑in‑law; one son‑in‑law; and ten grandchildren; and

Whereas, the House is pleased to honor Dr. Porter at the celebration of his seventieth birthday, and the members join with his family and friends in congratulating him on reaching this important life milestone. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Dr. John A. Porter of Beaufort County on the occasion of his seventieth birthday, wish him a joyous birthday celebration, and thank him for his many years of service in gospel ministry and in the military of our great country.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. John A. Porter.

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