**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE REV. DR. AMBASSADOR SUZAN JOHNSON COOK FOR HER SIGNIFICANT CAREER AND COUNTLESS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS A FAITH LEADER, ENTREPRENEUR, EDUCATOR, SUCCESS STRATEGIST, INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCER, COMMUNICATIONS EXPERT, AND DIPLOMAT.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to recognize Rev. Dr. Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook upon the occasion of her speaking at First Calvary Baptist Church’s Women in Missions and Ministry Symposium and Revival on Sunday, March 17, 2019; and

Whereas, with a wealth of domestic and foreign policy experience, Rev. Dr. Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook was the first woman and African American to hold the position of U.S. Ambassador for International Religious Freedom. She has also served as a faith advisor to two U.S. Presidents, three cabinet secretaries, and a number of political and celebrity leaders; and

Whereas, with a wealth of experience in higher education, Ambassador Johnson Cook served Harvard’s Divinity School as an Associate Dean, faculty member, and President’s Administrative Fellow. She also recently served as Distinguished Visiting Professor of the Religious Freedom Center’s LUCE Foundations’ Intensive for Historically Black Theological Institutions; and

Whereas, as pastor for three congregations in New York City and the first woman Chaplain of the New York City Police Department, Ambassador Johnson Cook helped bridge relations between the police department and the diverse communities it served, and helped New York and the nation through traumatic times on the front lines of 9/11, becoming known as “America’s Chaplain”; and

Whereas, having given more than three thousand speeches, Ambassador Johnson Cook often serves as a media commentator, guest lecturer, visiting fellow, and panel moderator, and she owns Charisma Speakers, the only global professional speakers bureau owned by an African-American woman and a full cross cultural communications firm. She also writes a column for Huffington Post’s THRIVE Global and has authored fourteen books; and

Whereas, a civil, gender, and human rights activist, Ambassador Johnson Cook has addressed the United Nations, the United Nations General Assembly, and the United Nations Geneva. She is passionate about enhancing the role that women play as leaders, both domestically and internationally; and

Whereas, throughout her distinguished career, she has received a number of honors and awards, including honorary membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; the Catholic University of America’s Fellowship; and Union Theological Seminary’s UNITAS Award, Trailblazing Award, and Activist Scholar Fellowship. She has also served as the first and only female President of the Hampton University Ministers’ Conference; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful for the dedication and commitment that Ambassador Johnson Cook has shown in serving as a national and international leader. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, honor and recognize Rev. Dr. Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook for her significant career and countless accomplishments as a faith leader, entrepreneur, educator, success strategist, international influencer, communications expert, and diplomat.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Rev. Dr. Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook.

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