**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE ZION HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY, TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE CHURCH FOR ITS DEEP HERITAGE IN THE WAGENER‑SALLEY COMMUNITY, AND TO COMMEND ITS LEADERSHIP AND CONGREGATION FOR THEIR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THIS COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to recognize Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church as it celebrates this important milestone with a celebratory banquet and other services, including the dedication of a historical marker and a brick; and

Whereas, Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church was founded in 1894 and held its first service under a brush harbor. Early church leadership included men and women who were born enslaved as well as those who were born free, and many worked as farmers. The first pastor of the church was Reverend James Turner; and

Whereas, in 1897, Zion Hill constructed its original sanctuary, a one‑story wood frame clapboard building with a three‑story tiered bell tower projecting from the front facade. This original structure remained until the church’s present sanctuary was built in 1986. Over the years, numerous improvements have been made to the building and grounds, including the addition of an educational building and dining room area, installation of stained glass windows in the sanctuary, paving of the church parking lot, installation of the cornerstone, and expansion of the cemetery; and

Whereas, Reverend Rubin W. Jackson, the seventeenth and current pastor of the church, has served Zion Hill since 2016. A man of great faith and a Christian gentlemen, Pastor Jackson is a dedicated leader who loves God and leads by example. Under his guidance, improvements to the church building and grounds are ongoing, and he encourages community outreach and teaches love of one another and trust in God; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate appreciate the ministry of Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church and its service to the Wagener‑Salley community and the State of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church upon the occasion of its one hundred twenty-fifth anniversary, recognize and honor the church for its deep heritage in the Wagener‑Salley community, and commend its leadership and congregation for their many years of service to this community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church.

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