**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE IRIS M. ESTRIDGE ON THE OCCASION OF HER ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HER A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MUCH HAPPINESS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to learn that Iris M. Estridge celebrated this important milestone on February 1, 2022; and

Whereas, on February 1, 1922, Mrs. Estridge was born to Edward Small McCaskill and Maud Jones McCaskill. The oldest of four children, she had three brothers, Ralph, Marvin, and Smith. She worked hard growing up on the family farm; and

Whereas, a diligent and gifted student, at age sixteen Mrs. Estridge graduated from Bethune High School as the class valedictorian; and

Whereas, Mrs. Estridge continued her education by attending the Textile Industrial Institute (TII), now Spartanburg Methodist College. She was elected secretary of her class, “Most Popular,” “Most Personality,” and “Best All Around.” After graduating from TII, she received her bachelor’s degree from Winthrop College and began her first job teaching fifth grade in Dillon County; and

Whereas, Mrs. Estridge met her late husband, Edwin W. Estridge, before he was deployed to serve as a pilot in World War II. He joined the Air Force in 1942 and received his flight training in Arizona. With their future unknown and due to the uncertainty of war, Iris and Edwin married on February 18, 1943. As a pilot, Edwin flew a B‑24 “Liberator,” and was shot down on September 3, 1943. Mrs. Estridge did not receive official confirmation that he had been taken as a prisoner of war until April 1944. Despite the dire situation, she never lost faith that her husband would return to her, and after two years spent in various prison camps, Edwin was finally liberated in April 1945; and

Whereas, during Edwin’s time in Europe, Mrs. Estridge had established herself as a teacher in Marion County, Chesterfield County, and Kershaw County. When Edwin was finally returned, the two settled once more in Mrs. Estridge’s hometown of Bethune. A gifted teacher, she taught at Bethune High School and was selected as Teacher of the Year on two separate occasions. After thirty‑five years as an educator, gifting her many talents in service to her students, she retired; and

Whereas, as a woman of great faith, Mrs. Estridge has attended Timrod Baptist church faithfully for nearly ninety years. Over the many years, she has served Timrod Baptist as a Sunday school teacher, assisted with Vacation Bible School, served for twenty‑two years as the church treasurer, served on a multitude of committees, and acted in various leadership roles. She continues to be a member of the Senior Ladies Sunday School class and is a proud member of the Goldenrods, the seniors’ group; and

Whereas, a loving and devoted wife, Mrs. Estridge was married to Edwin for fifty‑five long and cherished years until his death in 1998. Together they had one son, Ed. A proud grandmother, she enjoys doting upon her three grandchildren and seven great‑grandchildren; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate takes great pleasure in honoring this daughter of South Carolina at the celebration of her one hundredth birthday and is pleased to join with her family and friends in recognizing this momentous occasion and congratulating her on reaching this remarkable milestone. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Iris M. Estridge on the occasion of her one hundredth birthday and wish her a joyous birthday celebration and much happiness in the days ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Iris M. Estridge.

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