**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE WHITE OAK BAPTIST CHURCH NO. 2 OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS HISTORIC ONE HUNDRED SIXTY‑SECOND ANNIVERSARY AND TO COMMEND THE CHURCH FOR WELL OVER A CENTURY AND A HALF OF SERVICE TO GOD AND THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, founded in 1860, White Oak Baptist Church No. 2 of Fairfield County is celebrating its one hundred sixty‑second anniversary of gospel ministry in 2022; and

Whereas, White Oak, led by the Reverend Perry A. Williams, Sr., as its current pastor, has sought to serve the Lord with faithfulness and dedication; and

Whereas, the church grew out of the Sunday School founded by Deacon William Outten under a “brush harbor” on the Cauthen Place in Fairfield County, now known as Robert Gladden’s Place. The people would meet afterwards under a big white oak tree, and that is how the church received the name White Oak; and

Whereas, White Oak Baptist Church No. 2 was established during a special period in this nation’s history by a very special group of people in a unique place. The founders displayed great faith in the promise Jesus gave to his disciples that the gates of hell would not prevail against his church, and this faith gave the first White Oak members the hope and assurance that helped offset the uncertainty in the world about them; and

Whereas, over the years, the church has made various improvements to its facilities, including renovated or new stained glass windows, carpet, pastor’s study, kitchen, sanctuary light fixtures, roof, and sanctuary additions. Also, the church steeples were renovated and the church bell restored; and

Whereas, in addition, White Oak carries out a number of ministries as part of its service to the Lord, such as Bible study, Vacation Bible School, and a food bank drive for every first Sunday of the month, as well as music, outreach, women’s, military support, financial, health, emergency, intercessory prayer, and missionary ministries. This latter ministry, in addition to sponsoring the church’s food bank drive, conducts an Adopt‑a‑Highway project in which members pick up trash on a two‑mile stretch of highway; and

Whereas, by God’s grace, White Oak’s congregation, having weathered the storms and triumphantly celebrated the victories the years have brought, continues to pass on a rich heritage of faith; and

Whereas, standing on the faith and strength of its early pastors and members, White Oak’s present congregation “press[es] toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14), preaching and teaching the Word of God; and

Whereas, White Oak Baptist Church No. 2 has been a beacon of light and a community worship center in Fairfield County for one hundred sixty‑two years, and, God willing, will continue its godly heritage for many more years of worship and service. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate White Oak Baptist Church No. 2 of Fairfield County on the occasion of its historic one hundred sixty‑second anniversary and commend the church for well over a century and a half of service to God and the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to White Oak Baptist Church No. 2 of Fairfield County.

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