**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROMINENT AFRICAN AMERICAN STATE LEGISLATOR LEOLA ROBINSON, A NATIVE OF BELTON.

Whereas, Leola was born September 28, 1944, in Belton to Clyde and Rosa Lee Coleman Clement. The young Leola, having graduated with honors from Sterling High School, attended Shaw University and earned a bachelor’s degree from York College of the City University of New York, followed by a master’s degree from Furman University, a graduate certificate in public policy from Brandeis University in Boston, and doctoral studies at Clemson University; and

Whereas, she has been considered one of the foremost voices in civil rights in South Carolina since she was a teenager. In the summer of 1960, fifteen‑year‑old Leola Robinson, then known as Leola Clement, marched with fellow students to the Kress Variety Store lunch counter, where she knew they would face arrest. Because she was a minor, she was housed with other underage protesters in the Colored Youth Detention Center on North Leach Street, where she stayed for a week before a Family Court judge called a hearing that required her parents to stand for her behavior. As soon as her birthday came, bringing with it removal of the threat of her parents’ going to jail (she now being considered an adult), the determined Leola was back protesting; and

Whereas, the Kress sit‑in led to a key U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Peterson vs. City of Greenville, in which the court ruled the city’s laws mandating segregated lunch counters were unconstitutional. The ruling was used as a precedent in similar cases across the land; and

Whereas, a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives since 2013, Leola Robinson currently serves District 25 in that body. She is also a part of two committees in the House, serving as first vice chair of the Interstate Cooperation Committee and as a member of the Medical, Military, Public & Municipal Affairs Committee; and

Whereas, outside of her work in civil rights and the legislature, Representative Robinson is the proud mother of five children, Aminah, Basheer, Hassan, Shakir, and William; and

Whereas, this dedicated public servant is, and will remain, a champion of equality and equity for Black Americans in the State of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor the life and achievements of prominent African American state legislator Leola Robinson, a native of Belton.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Honorable Leola Robinson.

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