**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO SALUTE THE REVEREND JOHN ALSTON, JR., FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE AME CHURCH AND HIS COMMUNITY, TO THANK HIM FOR HIS YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE TO OUR GREAT COUNTRY, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH CONTINUED SUCCESS AND FULFILLMENT IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Whereas, it is with much pleasure that the South Carolina House of Representatives recognizes those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to the welfare of this great state’s and this great nation’s citizenry. Having spent his life serving others, the Reverend John Alston, Jr., exemplifies such South Carolinians; and

Whereas, a native of Younges Island, the Reverend John Alston, Jr., completed his early education at Baptist Hill High School and went on to further his education at Trident Technical College, Southeastern Business College, Allen University Extension at Reid Center, and Charleston College of Biblical Study; and

Whereas, heeding the call of his country, this patriotic American served in the United States Air Force for four years, one of them in the Republic of Vietnam. He was honorably discharged in July 1969. In January 1996, he retired from the Charleston Naval Shipyard as a production controller in the Planning Division; and

Whereas, he was licensed to preach at St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church of Hollywood in August 1975 and was later ordained to the order of itinerant deacon and elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME). Over the course of his ministry, Reverend Alston has served as pastor of several churches, including Emanuel (West Ashley), Mt. Nebo (Adams Run), St. Matthew (Johns Island), St. Paul (Hollywood), and Calvary (Edisto Island). He retired from the AME Church as pastor of James Chapel AME of Charleston in August 2020. Well respected among his pastoral colleagues, Reverend Alston has served as president of the Edisto Island Ministerial Alliance among many other boards and organizations; and

Whereas, his community service is extensive and of long standing. He has served as a member of the Sea Island Comprehensive Health Care Cooperation Board of Directors, Younges Island Improvement Board of Directors, and Sea Island Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. (president). Further, he was chairman of the St. Paul’s Fire District commissioners for over forty years. The first African American to serve on the commission, he is the longest serving chairman in the State of South Carolina; and

Whereas, in addition, Reverend Alston has served as chairman of the St. Paul’s Democratic Party Club, member of the Sons of St. Andrews Free and Accepted Masons, life member of the N.A.A.C.P., certified poll manager for Charleston County, member of the Baptist Hill High School Alumni Association, and notary public in the State of South Carolina; and

Whereas, in recognition of his committed service, he has received numerous awards and letters of appreciation; and

Whereas, the members of the House of Representatives recognize that the success of the State of South Carolina, the strength of its communities, and the vitality of American society as a whole depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of individuals like John Alston who use their talents and resources to serve others. Gratefully, the House acknowledges Reverend Alston’s invaluable and far‑reaching contributions to the betterment of the Palmetto State and this country. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, salute the Reverend John Alston, Jr., for his dedicated service to the AME Church and his community, thank him for his years of military service to our great country, and wish him much continued success and fulfillment in the days ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Reverend John Alston, Jr.

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