**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF MS. AGNES C. SHERMAN, A CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER IN BEAUFORT COUNTY AND ONE OF THE FIRST TWO AFRICAN AMERICAN SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, the month of March is Women’s History Month and celebrates the significant contributions women of all races, ethnicities, and backgrounds have made to the world. Women have always played a critical role in the vitality and diversity of our communities, and are essential to ensuring South Carolina is well‑represented; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives recognize Ms. Agnes C. Sherman, for her tireless work to improve the life of residents of St. Helena, and in so doing, bettering the lives of residents throughout this great State; and

Whereas, Ms. Sherman was one of the first two African Americans, along with Frieda Mitchell, to be elected in 1968 to a school board in South Carolina. Their efforts, jointly, played a major role in the desegregation of the public schools in Beaufort County; and

Whereas, in addition to her work with the County Board of Education, she worked to secure employment opportunities for African Americans, serving as secretary to the local NAACP branch for two decades. Following that service, she turned her talents and attention to Penn Center; and

Whereas, Penn Center, originally known as Penn School, was founded in 1862 as one of the first academic schools in the South to provide a formal education for formerly enslaved West Africans. More than one hundred and fifty years later, Penn Center continues to be at the epicenter of African American education, historic preservation, and social justice for tens of thousands of descendants of formerly enslaved peoples; and

Whereas, as the “Keeper of the Culture,” Ms. Sherman devoted her time and energies to create and maintain the York W. Bailey Museum. She also revived the monthly Community Sings and worked on the first Heritage Days Celebration committee. She has been a prominent activist and showed unparalleled concern and devotion for cultural preservation; and

Whereas, Ms. Agnes C. Sherman’s efforts throughout her life have created great change and betterment to the community of St. Helena, as well as bettering the lives of all citizens throughout the Palmetto State. The members of the House of Representatives recognize her invaluable efforts and honor the sacrifices she made for the betterment of others. 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 Ms. Agnes C. Sherman, a civil rights leader in Beaufort County and one of the first two African American school board members in South Carolina.

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