**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE REGULAR BAPTIST CHURCH OF GRETNA, LOUISIANA, AS THE CONGREGATION HOLDS ITS FIRST MEMORIAL SERVICE HONORING AND REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE DIED FROM COVID‑19 THIS PAST YEAR.

Whereas, Regular Baptist Church of historic Gretna, Louisiana, led by the Reverend T.A. Hodge, pastor of this venerable Black church of the 1800s, is hosting its first memorial service to honor loved ones who departed this life during the past year and who are now resting in God’s bosom. COVID‑19 has caused all of us to reflect frequently about the frailty of life and the value of precious memories. We find ourselves clinging closer to God and each other as we consider the loss of so many beloved family members and friends; and

Whereas, the New Living Translation of the Bible says, “Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honoring each other” (Romans 12:9‑10); and

Whereas, as a church firmly rooted in God’s Word, Regular Baptist Church will seek to fulfill the teaching of this scripture by holding an inaugural memorial service on Thursday, March 25, 2021, to remember those who made tremendous contributions to their families and communities during their lives; and

Whereas, in so doing, Regular Baptist Church sets a worthy example for the rest of the nation to follow in honoring similarly all who have departed this life through COVID‑19; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives extends its deepest sympathies to all in the church and surrounding community who have suffered the loss of beloved family and friends, and the members earnestly pray God’s comfort for these bereaved ones. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize Regular Baptist Church of Gretna, Louisiana, as the congregation holds its first memorial service honoring and remembering those who have died from COVID‑19 this past year.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Regular Baptist Church and Reverend T.A. Hodge.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑