**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE JULIUS P. JONES, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF NORTH, THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN ELECTED TO THAT POSITION, AND TO HONOR HIS TIRELESS WORK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF HIS COMMUNITY.

Whereas, a native of North, South Carolina, Julius Jones was the only child of the late Julia Kennerly Jones and Johnnie L. Jones, and he attended Dover School and graduated in 1973 from North High School, both public schools of Orangeburg County; and

Whereas, he earned a bachelor’s degree from Claflin University, majoring in education with minors in criminology and political science, and a master’s degree from South Carolina State University in 1982, and he is a licensed master social worker (LMSW); and

Whereas, for thirty‑two years, Mr. Jones served the State of South Carolina as an LMSW at the South Carolina Department of Corrections and the University of South Carolina Department of Psychology. He retired in 2015 from South Carolina Department of Mental Health where he received the Columbia Area Mental Health Center Employee of the Year Award in 2009 and was recognized as the South Carolina Department of Mental Health Employee of the Year in 2010; and

Whereas, for nine years he was a member of the North Town Council, serving as mayor pro tem and coordinating and facilitating an Alcoholic/Narcotics Anonymous group for the town, as well as community health fairs; and

Whereas, in November 2019**,** Julius Jones was elected to serve as mayor of the town of North, the first African American to hold the position. He coordinated with FHC to provide COVID‑19 testing on a weekly basis and coordinated with Reverend Dr. Thomas Bowman and the Saint Mark Church family of North to use their multipurpose room as a COVID‑19 vaccination site for citizens of the town of North; and

Whereas, he serves his profession as a member of the executive board for The Action Council for Cross‑Cultural Mental Health and Human Services and was honored with the organization’s prestigious award in 2019, the Otis A. Corbitt Leadership and Community Service Award; and

Whereas, Mayor Jones serves on the board of directors of Family Health Centers, Incorporated, expanding his leadership beyond his community and state, and is certified by the National Commission on Community Health Care, serving on the Finance and Legislative committees at the national level; and

Whereas, he served as a past president of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Mid-Carolina; and

Whereas, Mayor Jones is a graduate of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health Mentoring/Succession Program, designed to groom future leaders for the agency; and

Whereas, a graduate of the South Carolina Advanced Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government offered by the Municipal Association of South Carolina, Mayor Jones is a member of Mayors United, assisting with food distributions in several towns of western Orangeburg County; and

Whereas, a lifetime member of Beauty Hill Baptist Church in Orangeburg, he serves the congregation in many capacities and is an ordained deacon. He is entering his fourth year of study at The Beckman Center School of Theology in Sewanee, Tennessee, in preparation to enter the ministry; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives value the tireless efforts of Julius Jones in creating and exploring ways to enhance the town of North and its citizens and beyond. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Julius P. Jones, Mayor of the town of North, the first African American elected to that position, and honor his tireless work for the betterment of his community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mayor Julius P. Jones.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑