**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE THE LAKELANDS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF GREENWOOD ON THE GROUNDBREAKING OF THEIR NEW ASSOCIATION OFFICES AND TO COMMEND THE ASSOCIATION FOR ITS SERVICE TO GOD AND THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, founded in 1870, thirty official messengers gathered at Damascus Baptist Church in the Phoenix Community of what was Abbeville County, and organized the Abbeville Baptist Association. A constitution was adopted with the objective that the association “be the extension of Christ’s kingdom by the promotion of piety in the churches and by the diffusion of the knowledge of salvation”; and

Whereas, on October 17, 2005 at the 135th Abbeville Baptist Association’s annual meeting, a vote was taken and the name of the association was changed to the Lakelands Baptist Association as it was more descriptive of their location. Since the 1870s, Abbeville County has split into three counties, Abbeville, Greenwood, and McCormick, and the area is known as the Lakelands. As of today, the association has grown to include forty‑six churches within the three counties; and

Whereas, on September 20, 2021, the Lakelands Baptist Association will host a special night of celebration to commemorate the formal groundbreaking for its new association offices beside Abney Memorial Baptist Church located at 210 Bypass 225 S. in Greenwood; and

Whereas, to date, a total of $525,468.49 has been contributed to the building fund for the association’s new office building; and

Whereas, the churches of Lakelands Baptist Association have been a beacon of light in the Lakelands area for more than one hundred fifty years, and, God willing, will continue its faithful heritage for many more years of worship and service. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and congratulate the Lakelands Baptist Association of Greenwood on the groundbreaking of their new association offices and commend the association for its service to God and the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Lakelands Baptist Association.

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