**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS PROFOUND APPRECIATION FOR THE SERVICE GIVEN BY BETTY WATSON TO THE CITIZENS OF THIS GREAT STATE AND NATION AND TO HONOR HER LIFE AND MANY ACHIEVEMENTS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to recognize the tremendous efforts of Betty Watson throughout the course of her life as she has worked diligently to improve the lives of others; and

Whereas, in her early life, Betty was best known as a community activist and a leader of protest marches. One of the first three black women to work in a cotton mill in Woodruff, she also worked at a shirt plant and helped to organize and bring in the Amalgamated Textile Workers Union. A fierce supporter of workers’ rights and willing to stand up for those who would not or could not stand up for themselves, she traveled throughout the United States with the labor movement; and

Whereas, persistent issues following cataract surgery detected issues with her retina. With no cure available to resolve the issue, Betty eventually would become blind. As the years continued and with her eyesight gradually fading, Betty realized she would have to transition her approach toward ministering and meeting the needs of others; and

Whereas, Betty’s faith and determination refused to allow her physical disability to become an insurmountable obstacle. Overcoming her initial fear and trepidation, she developed systems which allowed her to reclaim her independence; and

Whereas, as she adapted to her new circumstances, Betty began to embrace her situation and, in doing so, became determined to help any individual who found themselves with a disability, whether mental, physical, or social; and

Whereas, having already established herself as a counselor for her prison ministry, Betty found it was only natural to continue that work in earnest. Her life‑altering change enabled Betty to connect with and minister to inmates unwelcomed by greater society because of their heinous crimes, and she encouraged them to live life differently; and

Whereas, a woman of tremendous faith in the Lord, Betty grew up in Cross Anchor Church in Spartanburg County. Now in her eighties, she continues to serve the church as an associate pastor. Having once desired to be a gospel recording artist, she has spent more than forty years leading the church choir and has written many songs throughout the years.

Whereas, the generosity of spirit and commitment that Betty Watson exudes should serve as a beacon for all who might follow in her path of service to others. It is a great pleasure to recognize these many acts of service to the citizens of this great State and nation, and the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives wish her all the best in her future endeavors. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, express profound appreciation for the service given by Betty Watson to the citizens of this great State and nation and honor her life and many achievements.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Betty Watson.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑