**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR THE REVEREND MARCELLO R. WHEELER, SR., PASTOR OF MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH IN RIDGEWAY, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF GOSPEL MINISTRY AT MT. OLIVE AND TO WISH HIM GOD’S RICHEST BLESSINGS AS HE CONTINUES TO SERVE THE LORD.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina House of Representatives honors those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to nurture the souls of men. The Reverend Marcello R. Wheeler, Sr., pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Ridgeway, stands among their number as an outstanding minister of the gospel, one much admired by colleagues, congregation, and area residents at large; and

Whereas, this native of Columbia and son of Lamont and Thelma Wheeler grew up being groomed for ministry as a member of Apostolic Temple Church, where his parents and grandparents also served the Lord. A graduate of Eau Claire High School, he attended Savannah State University and Benedict College. In May 2000, he met Vernette Belton, and the two wed in September 2001; and

Whereas, Marcello Wheeler went on to join his wife at Bethlehem Baptist Church. There he was called to preach the gospel, and in 2002 he delivered his trial sermon. While at Bethlehem Baptist, he was led to Darian Baptist Church in Pelion, becoming pastor there in 2004. After seven years of service at Darian, in 2011 he was led to start his own church, New Life Worship Center, NE, in Columbia, where he ministered as pastor for two years; and

Whereas, throughout his ministry at both churches, Pastor Wheeler was battling a rare liver disease that required numerous procedures, hospital stays, and ultimately two liver transplants, one in 2013 and the other in 2016. Although this was a trying time for Pastor Wheeler, he never ceased to praise the Lord and never lost his faith in God. He pushed past his pain and struggles and let God have his way, and he continued to focus on his motto, “The best is yet to come!”; and

Whereas, currently pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Ridgeway, Reverend Wheeler has served his flock there for three years. His vision is to create an atmosphere that will attract new believers and make disciples for Christ through proclaiming the gospel and leading sinners to saving faith in the Lord Jesus. In addition to his work as a pastor, Reverend Wheeler serves as vice moderator of the Fairfield County Baptist Association. In his leisure time, he loves to fish, read, and spend time with his family; and

Whereas, Pastor Wheeler finds strength for his labors in the firm support of his family: his lovely wife, Vernette; and their four charming children, Alliyah, Imari, Marcello, Jr., and Lakyn; and

Whereas, he also finds power to meet the challenges of daily living through meditating on this favorite scripture: “The Lord is my light and my salvation ‑‑ whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life ‑‑ of whom shall I be afraid?” (NIV); and

Whereas, to honor him at this special time in his life, his congregation, family, and other friends will gather to celebrate Pastor Wheeler on Sunday, April 10, 2022. The House is pleased to add its collective voice of praise to the many tributes flowing in to this dedicated minister, and the members wish him God’s best as he continues to run the race the Lord has set before him. 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 Reverend Marcello R. Wheeler, Sr., pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Ridgeway, on the occasion of his third anniversary of gospel ministry at Mt. Olive and wish him God’s richest blessings as he continues to serve the Lord.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Reverend Marcello R. Wheeler, Sr.

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