**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE AND HONOR THE MEMBERS OF THE WEBBER HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1970 IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR FIFTY‑SECOND ANNIVERSARY AND TO COMMEND ITS MEMBERS FOR THEIR MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to celebrate the fifty‑second anniversary of historic Webber High School’s Class of 1970; and

Whereas, Webber School, founded in the early 1900s for African American students, was constructed on property donated by William and P.R. Webber on the border of Eastover in Richland County; and

Whereas, at its inception, Webber School only educated students through eighth grade. Mamie Webber served as the school’s first principal. However, the need for secondary education in the Eastover community led the school to add a grade every year until the first senior class graduation was celebrated in 1951; and

Whereas, during its storied history, Webber High’s students exhibited tremendous talent. Led by John Benson, its marching band often performed in the Carolina Carillon Parade and performed every year in the Eastover Parade and Festival. Under the direction of Mildred Garner, the Webber High chorus flourished with students showcasing their talents for classmates and the community. Alumni from Webber also have served as Eastover’s mayor and in the South Carolina General Assembly; and

Whereas, on the gridiron Webber won the first State Football Championship in the school’s history in 1969 under the leadership of talented Coach Chris Cochran; and

Whereas, the federal government put an end to South Carolina’s School Equalization Program in 1970. At that time, Columbia Public School District One, the predecessor of Richland County School District One, made the decision to close Webber, the oldest, formerly Black school in the district, at the end of the school year; and

Whereas, with Principal John Kennedy and Assistant Principal Brady Hare at the helm, Webber saw its last senior graduating class in 1970. These graduates excelled both academically and athletically to ensure they went out on top. Members of this class went on to populate all fields of medicine, became lawyers, teachers, college professors, entrepreneurs, civil rights activists, and politicians; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives recognize and salute the members of the Class of 1970 for their many achievements and their contributions to this great State. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate and honor the members of Webber High School Class of 1970 in celebration of their fifty‑second anniversary and commend its members for their many accomplishments and contributions to the community.

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