**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DEACON CHARLES J. OWENS FOR HIS YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO MOUNT PISGAH BAPTIST CHURCH OF ORANGEBURG.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that Deacon Charles Owens will be honored at an appreciation banquet on Saturday, June 29, 2013, for the years of outstanding service he has given to Mount Pisgah Baptist Church of Orangeburg; and

Whereas, born in Orangeburg, Charles Owens is the son of Reverend Thomas Franklin Owens and Mae Gilyard Owens; and

Whereas, when he was six, he moved with his family to Rockaway, New York, and graduated from Lawrence High School in New York before he returned to the Palmetto State to attend Benedict College, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in science and mathematics. He continued his education at Columbia University, Molloy College, and the Urban Academy; and

Whereas, he served in the United States Army with distinction for two years as a member of the Presidential Honor Guard, 3rd Infantry in Fort Meyers, Virginia; and

Whereas, in 1960, he began his professional career with the New York Housing Authority, from which he retired as the director of community affairs after thirty‑two years of faithful service in 1992, and he served as the president of the New York City Housing Authority Branch of the NAACP for ten years; and

Whereas, he received numerous awards for his noteworthy community service, including the Presidential Citation for Outstanding Volunteer Service, the Mayor’s Voluntary Action Award for a superior volunteer program, and the Public Service Award sponsored by the Fund for the City of New York, which carried a monetary award of five thousand dollars; and

Whereas, with his beloved wife, Barbara Jackson Owens, he celebrated his fifty‑fifth wedding anniversary on June 1, 2013, and together they reared three fine sons: Charles David, Thomas Franklin, and Derrick Eugene. Their sons have blessed them with four adoring grandchildren; and

Whereas, when they returned to Orangeburg in 1995, they joined Mount Pisgah Baptist Church, and he served as the vice chairman of the Deacons’ Ministry. He currently serves as the president of Ward I Ministry and as the teacher of the men’s Sunday school class; and

Whereas, he has immersed himself in community services, such as the Cooperative Church Ministries of Orangeburg and the Orangeburg Branch of the NAACP, and he is the former president of the Orangeburg AARP and of the Orangeburg Branch of the NAACP; and

Whereas, a proud alumnus of Benedict College, he serves as chairman of the Scholarship Committee of the National Benedict Alumni Association and as chairman of the Fundraising Committee for the Edisto Area Benedict Club; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is grateful for Charles Owens’ meaningful contributions to his church, to his community, and to our great State. 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 honor Deacon Charles J. Owens for his years of dedicated service to Mount Pisgah Baptist Church of Orangeburg.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Deacon Charles J. Owens.

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