**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND LITTLE ZION BAPTIST CHURCH IN RICHLAND COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS ONE HUNDRED EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY AND TO HONOR THE CHURCH FOR DECADES OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to learn that Blythewood’s Little Zion Baptist Church, founded in 1832, celebrated its one hundred eightieth anniversary in October of 2012; and

Whereas, just beyond the church’s current location, a nascent congregation worshiped under a brush arbor, a common outdoor structure used for worship by those who were enslaved, and later moved to a log cabin on the old homestead of the Entzminger family, whose descendants still worship at Little Zion; and

Whereas, even though the church’s early pastors and congregants were themselves slaves, they devoted themselves to God who kept them steadfast and faithful during many dark days; and

Whereas, Little Zion Baptist Church purchased a three‑acre tract of land for thirty‑two dollars in 1886 and erected a wooden frame building on the site, which is believed to be the church’s first sanctuary; and

Whereas, in the past century and a quarter, Little Zion has enjoyed long and fruitful ministry from five pastors: Reverend A. Chandler from 1887 to 1937; Reverend Jacob C. Spann from 1937 to 1953; Reverend Clarence Eugene Harrell from 1954 to 1971; and Reverend Willie Lee Starks from 1972 to 1982. Since 1983, Reverend Eddie W. Davis has selflessly served the congregation and ministered to spiritual needs from the Holy Scriptures; and

Whereas, the church’s present beautiful sanctuary was built to the glory of God under the leadership of Pastor Davis in 1995, and additional land was purchased for further ministry and burial space; and

Whereas, today, twenty‑two volunteer ministries serve the congregation and the community, including Little Zion Daycare Center, which opened in 1987 and has expanded into Little Zion Christian Academy and Childcare; the Health Care Ministry, consisting of members with careers in nursing and other medical training; and Teen to WATCCH, Workers in Action in the Church Community and Home; and

Whereas, to promote higher education, a Scholarship Ministry was organized that encourages young high school students and adults to continue their education with financial assistance in the form of college scholarships from the church; and

Whereas, Little Zion Baptist Church has been a beacon of light in the community of Blythewood for one hundred eighty years, and led by Pastor Davis, the congregation hopes to follow the tradition of its early founders by continuing in their godly heritage of worshiping and serving for many years to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and commend Little Zion Baptist Church in Richland County on the occasion of its one hundred eightieth anniversary and honor the church for decades of outstanding service to the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Pastor Eddie W. Davis on behalf of the congregation of Little Zion Baptist Church.

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