**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND GREATER GOODWILL AME CHURCH OF MOUNT PLEASANT FOR ALMOST TWO CENTURIES OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND TO EXTEND WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF THE CHURCH’S HISTORIC ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY‑EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY.

Whereas, having been founded in 1836, Greater Goodwill AME Church of Mount Pleasant will celebrate its historic one hundred seventy‑eighth anniversary February 21‑23, 2014, with special events marking the occasion; and

Whereas, with a membership composed mostly of residents of Seven Mile, Hamlin Beach, Phillip, Cooksfield Corner, Six Mile, Ten Mile (Awendaw), Charleston, and other surrounding areas, Goodwill traces its roots back to the early 1800s through a deed recorded in 1873; and

Whereas, oral history holds that the first church was built in 1836 by seven men, one of them being Francis Simmons, Sr., treasurer of the fledgling congregation. Worship in the early days undoubtedly took place in a “pole church,” a very basic building made of split logs held together with mud, a common ecclesiastical structure during this period of American history; and

Whereas, Goodwill’s first verified pastor was the Reverend S.K. Barr, who served in the late 1800s. The Reverend M.A. Hollings, who succeeded Reverend Barr, is credited with having built Goodwill’s first modern church. In the 1960s during the Reverend J.J. Taylor’s pastorate, the church was destroyed by fire and was without its own place of worship for three years. With the help of God, Goodwill weathered this crisis, as it has weathered many other challenges over the years, and rebuilt. When fire again ravaged the church building in 1979, Goodwill’s congregation built the modern facility that serves the church today; and

Whereas, Goodwill has seen many improvements over the course of its long history, including additions and renovations to its facilities and the purchase of additional property, and it has expanded its ministry in such areas as evangelism, youth activities, music, and education; and

Whereas, the church also remains proud of its African heritage, a pride shown in the use of the sweetgrass basket in weekly services. The ladies of Goodwill and the surrounding communities are the only craftspeople known to preserve this age‑old art form, which can be traced directly back to the west coast of Africa; and

Whereas, standing on the faith and strength of its early pastors and members, Greater Goodwill AME’s present congregation “presses toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14), continuing to proclaim the Word of God; and

Whereas, Greater Goodwill AME Church has been a beacon of light in Mount Pleasant for one hundred seventy‑eight years, and, God willing, will continue its godly heritage in many more years of worship and service. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, commend Greater Goodwill AME Church of Mount Pleasant for almost two centuries of service to the community and extend warmest congratulations on the occasion of the church’s historic one hundred seventy‑eighth anniversary.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Reverend Richard W. Crummy for Greater Goodwill AME Church.

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