**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE THE LIFE AND WORK OF REVEREND JAMES FOSTER MARSHALL AND TO COMMEMORATE THE CELEBRATION AT BETHANY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH.

Whereas, Bethany Missionary Baptist Church in McCormick, South Carolina will hold a Reverend James Foster Marshall Celebration on Sunday, April 28, 2013; and

Whereas, Reverend James Foster Marshall was born in the Bordeaux Section of McCormick County as a slave in 1851; and

Whereas, after the Civil War ended in 1865, James Foster Marshall chose to become a preacher to help lead, guide, and free slaves; and

Whereas, during this time he became a member of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in McCormick. From there he helped organize the Holy Spring Baptist Church in McCormick and he was one of the church’s first pastors; and

Whereas, he soon organized the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Plum Branch and ably served as pastor for fifty-seven years; and

Whereas, he also organized the Bethany Missionary Baptist Church in McCormick where he served as pastor for fifty-four years; and

Whereas, while at Bethany, he organized the Bethany Industrial Graded School, which became a Boarding School. During this time Reverend Marshall was also Pastor of Old Mount Zion Baptist Church in Epworth, S.C. for forty-nine years. This is the church where Dr. Benjamin E. Mays (a Morehouse College President, Advisor to Presidents, Teacher to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. about non-violence, and Eulogist at Dr. King’s funeral) grew up. Dr. Mays was a student at Bethany School for two years; and

Whereas, Reverend Marshall also helped to organize the Bethany Masonic Lodge in McCormick and at the time of his death, he was a pastor of four different churches: Hope, Bethany, Old Mt. Zion, and Young Mount Zion Baptist Church in Chappells, South Carolina where he served for eighteen years; and

Whereas, this former slave served as a minister and educator for over sixty years until his death on February 8, 1936. He is buried in the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery in Plum Branch, South Carolina; and

Whereas, it is fitting and proper for the members of the South Carolina Senate to pause in their deliberations to remember the significant contributions of this son of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate, by this resolution, honor and recognize the life and work of Reverend James Foster Marshall and commemorate the celebration at Bethany Missionary Baptist Church on April 28, 2013.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Bethany Missionary Baptist Church.

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