**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE MRS. HAZEL SNIPES PARSON‑STARKES OF DORCHESTER COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF HER EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HER A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MUCH HAPPINESS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Whereas, on August 19, 2017, Hazel Parson‑Starkes of Dorchester County will celebrate a milestone in her life, her eightieth birthday; and

Whereas, born to Charles and Edna Snipes, Mrs. Parson‑Starkes was educated in the public school system of Dorchester County and graduated from Jenkins Hill High School; and

Whereas, Mrs. Parson‑Starkes dedicated herself to public service and improving the quality of life in Ridgeville when she was elected to serve as the town’s Mayor in 1979; and

Whereas, during her eighteen year tenure, she founded Ridgeville’s first municipal government office, expanded the Ridgeville Fire department, formed the Mayor’s Task Force for Education to tackle complex issues in educating the young people of the area and established the Ridgeville Arts and Culture Festival; and

Whereas, under her leadership, Mrs. Parson‑Starkes reduced unemployment in Ridgeville by encouraging new growth and seeking several new businesses and industries and the town was recognized for excellence in recreational programs in 1996 when it was awarded the South Carolina Municipal Association’s Achievement Award; and

Whereas, she is married to Mr. Herbert L. Starkes and they have seven children, twenty‑three grandchildren, and eleven great grandchildren; and

Whereas, the Senate is pleased to honor Hazel Snipes Parson‑Starkes on the occasion of her eightieth birthday and join with her family and friends in congratulating her on reaching this extraordinary milestone. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Mrs. Hazel Snipes Parson‑Starkes on the occasion of her eightieth birthday and wish her a joyous birthday celebration and much happiness in the days ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Hazel Snipes Parson‑Starkes.

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