**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR HER EXCELLENCY HAJIYA TURAI UMARU YAR’ADUA, FIRST LADY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, FOR HER EXTENSIVE HUMANITARIAN WORK IN HER NATION, AND TO WELCOME HER TO SOUTH CAROLINA AS SHE VISITS THE BENEDICT COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM IN COLUMBIA ON FEBRUARY 25, 2009.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that Her Excellency Hajiya Turai Umaru Yar’adua, First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, will visit the Benedict College International Studies Program in Columbia on February 25, 2009; and

Whereas, Her Excellency’s reputation for humanitarian work precedes her. While her husband, Mallam Umaru Musa Yar’adua, was Governor of Katsina State in Nigeria, she engaged herself in providing numerous humanitarian welfare services to the needy and underprivileged in Katsina State. Among many such endeavors, she helped bring succor to children born with disabilities by providing treatments for them abroad as necessary and awarded scholarships and donated instructional materials to many schools in the state through nongovernmental funding; and

Whereas, since she became First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria upon the swearing in of her husband as President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria in 2007, Her Excellency has devoted her energy and resources to fighting the scourge of HIV/AIDS in her country through the establishment of the National Women’s Coalition Against HIV/AIDS, NAWOCA; and

Whereas, for her contributions to the socio-economic development of humanity, the First Lady has received many honors, including the 2008 Zahara Children’s Foundation (Montreal, Canada) Philanthropist of the Year Award and the 2008 Beacon of Hope Award from the National Association of Women Journalists; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives wish the First Lady a pleasant visit to the Palmetto State and Columbia’s Benedict College, as well as continued success as she seeks to serve the people of Nigeria. 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 Her Excellency Hajiya Turai Umaru Yar’adua, First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, for her extensive humanitarian work in her nation, and welcome her to South Carolina as she visits the Benedict College International Studies Program in Columbia on February 25, 2009.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Her Excellency Hajiya Turai Umaru Yar’adua.

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