**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE MRS. BERNICE SKINNER OF COLUMBIA ON THE OCCASION OF HER NINETIETH BIRTHDAY, AND TO WISH HER A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MUCH HEALTH AND HAPPINESS IN THE DAYS TO COME.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are delighted to learn that Mrs. Bernice Skinner of Columbia will celebrate her ninetieth birthday on November 2, 2009; and

Whereas, Bernice Skinner was born on November 2, 1919, when the twentieth century was still in its youth, and she has been witness to nearly all the incredible changes and developments that have come to this nation from that time into the twenty‑first century; and

Whereas, after enjoying a life and career in the Boston area, where she served for many years in public service and as a community organizer and champion of causes, Mrs. Skinner relocated to northeast Columbia in the late 1980s; and

Whereas, as a personable and warm human being, she could easily be found on any given day in the yard of her new home in the Springwood Lake community. This is where neighbors and passersby would see this humanitarian, fondly known as “Mrs. B.,” and come to know her; and

Whereas, drawing on a life of public service and a love for people, Mrs. Skinner diligently set out to foster much‑needed changes in her neighborhood and inspired others to do the same. Under her leadership, the community acquired additional street lighting, new roads, stop signs, traffic lights, cleanups, and enforcement of many zoning ordinances. Among other worthy projects, she proposed to public officials the idea of a senior activity center in her area, an idea which is now a reality. For her extensive service to the citizens of both Boston and Columbia, she has received numerous awards; and

Whereas, upon her relocation to Columbia, Bernice Skinner did not neglect the assembly of the saints, nor does she at the present day, being a committed member of Little Zion Baptist Church of Blythewood; and

Whereas, Mrs. Skinner and her husband, Troy Skinner, have five children, who have given their parents the joy of thirty‑two grandchildren, sixteen great‑grandchildren, and one great‑great‑grandchild; and

Whereas, in recognition of her ninetieth birthday, her family will honor Mrs. Skinner with a celebratory gathering on Saturday, November 7, 2009; and

Whereas, the Senate is proud to honor this truly lovely lady at the celebration of her ninetieth birthday and joins 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 South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Mrs. Bernice Skinner of Columbia on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday, and wish her a joyous birthday celebration and much health and happiness in the days to come.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mrs. Bernice Skinner.

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