**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR REVEREND SYLVESTER GOLDEN, SR., OF PIEDMONT AND TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF DEVOTED SERVICE TO THE GOSPEL MINISTRY AND FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that the church family of Reverend Sylvester Golden, Sr., will honor his fifty‑three years of dedicated Gospel ministry and leadership in the community at a celebration to be held on July 24, 2011, at Valley Brook Outreach Baptist Church in Pelzer; and

Whereas, born the seventh son of nineteen siblings to John and Mary Golden, Sylvester Golden received his early education at the Fountain Inn Negro Elementary School & High School, Fuller Normal School in Greenville, and Martha Washington Vocational School in Washington, D.C. When he was called to preach, he also studied at Union Baptist Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Starks Theological Seminary and Benedict College in Columbia; and

Whereas, Reverend Golden was married to the late Marcell Meekins Golden, and he and his beloved wife reared five fine children, Margaret, Shirley, Sylvester, Jr., Martin Ray (now deceased), and David Timothy; and

Whereas, in 1948, he was licensed to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ at New Bethlehem Baptist Church in Princeton and in 1951 was ordained to the pastorate. Since that time, he has served as a pastor and founded many churches; and

Whereas, in 1951, Reverend Golden founded Golden Temple Baptist Church in Taylors (now First Baptist Church of Paris), later also pastoring Mt. Able Baptist Church in Pendleton and Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Fountain Inn. In 1966, he saw the opening of Golden View Baptist Church of Fountain Inn and rejoiced to watch its steady growth in both facilities and outreach; and

Whereas, having been given the vision to found Piedmont Manor Baptist Church in 1969, Sylvester Golden saw the first service of this new congregation in 1970. From Piedmont Manor, he launched numerous outreach efforts, including a drug‑addiction program, food‑assistance program (the Miracle Bus), and summer camp for youth. He has also mentored many young people who were licensed to preach the Gospel under his leadership; and

Whereas, to ensure that as many as possible hear the Word of God, Reverend Golden has faithfully proclaimed the Gospel throughout the Upstate of South Carolina through various television and radio programs, such as *What*’*s Up Bible Hour*; and

Whereas, in addition to his church ministry and service at tent revivals, he has been an advocate for youth in the Greenville County School System and individuals in the judicial system, a benefactor of those who need assistance with rent and power bills, and a friend to many; and

Whereas, he has not gone unappreciated for his labors on behalf of others. Among his many honors are the Martin Luther King Citizenship Award and a listing in *Black America Series*; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the fifty‑three years of faithful service that Reverend Sylvester Golden, Sr., has given to his church, his community, and the people of our State. 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 Reverend Sylvester Golden, Sr., of Piedmont and commend him for his many years of devoted service to the Gospel ministry and for his distinguished leadership in the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Reverend Sylvester Golden, Sr.

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