**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. WILMA DELORES WEBB WILLIAMS, AND TO CONGRATULATE HER FOR EIGHT YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE AS THE EPISCOPAL SUPERVISOR OF THE 7TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT’S WOMEN’S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representative are pleased to learn that Dr. Wilma Delores Webb Williams has diligently served the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church as Episcopal supervisor of the 7th Episcopal District’s Women’s Missionary Society (WMS) for eight years; and

Whereas, Dr. Williams earned a bachelor of science from Alabama A&M University and a master of arts from Clark‑Atlanta University, and she holds a degree in science education from Jacksonville State University; and

Whereas, together with her beloved husband, Bishop Preston Warren Williams II, the presiding prelate of the 7th Episcopal District of the AME Church, she reared four fine children: Arnold Andre, a physicist; twin daughters, Wilma Priscilla, a chemist, and Stella Jacinta, a geologist; and Prestina Delores, a Foreign Service officer with the United States Department of State; and

Whereas, for thirty‑five years she served as a teacher of English and language arts and was tenured in both Georgia and Alabama; and

Whereas, she served as a music, French, and Head Start teacher and as a curriculum developer in the Atlanta public school system for kindergarten through the twelfth grade; and

Whereas, in July of 2000, Dr. Williams was lovingly named “Mother Williams” in Zimbabwe when she and Bishop Williams were appointed to govern the 7th District of the AME Church which is comprised of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Congo‑Brazzaville, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Burundi, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Malawi; and

Whereas, while in Africa, Mother Williams led the 7th District’s WMS and the Young People’s Division in numerous programs such as planting vegetable gardens; establishment of feeding centers for malnourished children in Mwezeni, Kwacha, and Kamitondo; and formation of workshops addressing issues related to HIV/AIDS, child abuse, and fundamental human rights; and

Whereas, in July of 2004, she was appointed as the Episcopal supervisor of the 7th Episcopal District which encompasses the entire state of South Carolina; and

Whereas, under her leadership, the 7th District’s WMS has sought to make a difference in the lives of those most in need through annual visits to correctional facilities, senior‑citizen service organizations, health care providers, and schools; and

Whereas, during each annual conference, the WMS confers with local food pantries, domestic violence shelters, health clinics, hospices, detention centers, clothing centers, and homeless shelters to assess the needs of those agencies, and by the end of each annual conference, the WMS provides financial aid and other assistance to those local agencies to help meet their needs; and

Whereas, Dr. Williams established partnerships with various government and community agencies in the district, including the Eyes On The Child Program, which matches AME volunteers with at‑risk elementary school children in need of additional educational and developmental support; and

Whereas, in May of 2006, Allen University in Columbia conferred an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters on Mother Williams: and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the dedicated service that Dr. Williams has given to benefit so many not only in the Palmetto State but also around the world. 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 Dr. Wilma Delores Webb Williams, and congratulate her for eight years of faithful service as the Episcopal supervisor of the 7th Episcopal District’s Women’s Missionary Society.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Wilma Delores Webb Williams.

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