**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR THE REVEREND ABRAHAM B. NELSON, PASTOR OF MT. ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IN PAWLEYS ISLAND, FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF GOSPEL MINISTRY, TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT, AND TO WISH HIM GOD’S RICHEST BLESSINGS AS HE CONTINUES TO SERVE THE LORD.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina House of Representatives honors those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to nuture the souls of men; and

Whereas, the Reverend Abraham B. Nelson, pastor of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Pawleys Island, stands among their number as an outstanding minister of the Gospel, one much admired by colleagues, congregation, and area residents at large; and

Whereas, born in Summerton on November 29, 1927, Abraham B. Nelson graduated from Howard High School in Georgetown. Heeding his country’s need, he left his job with Naylor Tile Company and began military service in 1950; and

Whereas, having completed his military duties in 1953, he returned to his native State and resumed his job with Naylor Tile. As his expertise in the tile industry continued to increase, Abraham launched out on his own and founded Nelson Tile Company in 1966. His work may be seen in homes and businesses throughout South Carolina. After twenty‑three years with Nelson Tile, Abraham retired in 1989 and passed on the business to his son; and

Whereas, a few years after his return to the Palmetto State, Abraham completed what he considers one of the greatest achievements of his life when he married the former Marian D. Collins. God blessed their union with four fine children, Gwen, Leonard, Gary, and Tony, who have given their parents the joy of seven grandchildren. Abraham shared fifty‑three years with his companion and best friend until her passing in 2009; and

Whereas, at a young age, Abraham accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior while attending New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Sandy Island. He later moved his membership to Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, where he served faithfully as usher, Sunday School teacher, trustee, and deacon. In 1971, he answered the call of God and became a minister of the Gospel; and

Whereas, he pastored St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church in Georgetown and Antioch Baptist in Lane for several years. In 1984, he began service as pastor of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist in Pawleys Island, a ministry that has continued for the past twenty‑nine years; and

Whereas, active in local, state, and national ministerial associations, Reverend Nelson possesses a friendly spirit and sense of humor that make him a stranger to none. He is known throughout the Pawleys Island community as “Father Abraham”; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives, cognizant of his many years of spiritual nourishment of the people of South Carolina, takes great pleasure in expressing grateful thanks to Reverend Nelson and in wishing him God’s best as he continues to run the race the Lord has set before him. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor the Reverend Abraham B. Nelson, pastor of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Pawleys Island, for his many years of Gospel ministry, congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement, and wish him God’s richest blessings as he continues to serve the Lord.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Reverend Abraham B. Nelson.

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