**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND CONGRATULATE REVEREND DR. MICHAEL ROSS ON THE OCCASION OF FORTY YEARS OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRY AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED HAPPINESS IN HIS SERVICE TO THE CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY OF NEW EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH.

Whereas, the members of the Senate are delighted to learn that Reverend Dr. Michael Ross, pastor of New Ebenezer Baptist Church in Columbia is celebrating forty years in the ministry; and

Whereas, born in July 1960 to Isaiah and Annie Eva Ross, Dr. Ross is the middle child of eleven. Exposed to Christian worship and teaching early, Dr. Ross became a member of St. Mark Baptist Church in Vienna, Georgia through baptism; and

Whereas, after graduating from high school, Dr. Ross joined the military and married the love of his life, Carolyn. He attended Troy State University and completed his undergraduate degree from Tifton College of Mercer University. He continued his studies at New Orleans Baptist Seminary and then transferred to Moorehouse School of Religion where he earned a master’s of divinity degree. Dr. Ross earned a doctor of ministry from United Theological Seminary; and

Whereas, Dr. Ross has been blessed to pastor three churches: Mt. Mariah Baptist Church in Unadilla, Georgia, Macedonia First Baptist Church in Valdosta, Georgia, and New Ebenezer Baptist Church in Columbia; and

Whereas, Dr. Ross has been with New Ebenezer Baptist for twenty-seven years. Under his leadership, New Ebenezer Baptist has grown both spiritually and physically. Dr. Ross has witnessed additions to the membership, ordained preachers and deacons, and baptized and married many. The church has expanded its property by building the educational resource center and acquiring ninety acres of land; and

Whereas, in addition to his service as pastor, Dr. Ross is involved in the South Carolina Baptist Congress, serving as state dean for the Congress of Christian Education and director of the Minister Division. He has also served as director of Christian Education for Easter and M Convention of South Carolina. On the national level, Dr. Ross has taught classes at the National Congress of Christian Education and served on the program committee of the National Baptist Convention; and

Whereas, Dr. Ross has served as adjunct professor at Benedict, Voorhees, and Morris Colleges. He has conducted countless revival and various workshops for churches, associations, and state conventions throughout his forty years of ministry; and

Whereas, the members of the Senate are grateful for the years of service Dr. Ross has given to his congregation and members of his community and wish that New Ebenezer Baptist Church continues to thrive under his leadership. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate, by this resolution, honor and congratulate Reverend Dr. Michael Ross on the occasion of forty years of Christian ministry and wish him continued happiness in his service to the congregation and community of New Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Reverend Dr. Michael Ross.

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