**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR REVEREND MICHAEL H. BAKER FOR HIS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIS COMMUNITY AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS EIGHTEENTH ANNIVERSARY AS PASTOR OF THE GREATER SAINT LUKE BAPTIST CHURCH IN COLUMBIA.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are delighted to learn that Reverend Michael H. Baker will be honored for eighteen years of ministry as pastor of The Greater Saint Luke Baptist Church at a grand celebration on April 19, 2015; and

Whereas, born in Jacksonville, Florida, he is the son of the late Reverend Dr. and Mrs. Henry L. Baker, and he earned a bachelor’s degree from Florida Theological Seminary and completed post‑graduate work at Regent’s Park College at the University of Oxford; and

Whereas, Pastor Baker founded the Greater Columbia Holistic Enrichment Development Summer Program which offers academic, music, and computer training, and he authored the helpful book, *How to Build Without Borrowing: An Interactive Guide to Debt Free Building*; and

Whereas, he serves on the Executive Board of the National Action Network under the leadership of Reverend Al Sharpton, with the Richland County Sheriff’s Department Chaplain Division, and as the executive director of the Light of the World Economic Community Development Corporation; and

Whereas, Reverend Baker is a member of the NAACP, the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina, the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, and the South Carolina Prevent Teen Pregnancy Initiative; and

Whereas, among his many honors, he was named to the 100 Black Men of Greater Columbia; and

Whereas, together with his beloved wife, the former Minister Darlene Hunter, he reared two fine children, Michael and Michelle, who have blessed their parents with four adoring grandchildren; and

Whereas, the Senate of the State of South Carolina deeply appreciates the eighteen years of ministry that Reverend Baker has devoted to The Greater Saint Luke Baptist Church, as well as his ministry across the Palmetto State and throughout the nation, and the members wish him a joyous celebration and many more years of fruitful ministry. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor Reverend Michael H. Baker for his significant contributions to his community and congratulate him upon the occasion of his eighteenth anniversary as pastor of The Greater Saint Luke Baptist Church in Columbia.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Reverend Michael H. Baker.

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