**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR DR. JOHNNIE MCLENDON, PASTOR OF FISHER HILL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS TWENTY‑FIFTH YEAR OF MEANINGFUL MINISTRY TO THE CONGREGATION AND TO THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that Dr. Johnnie McLendon will celebrate twenty‑five years as the pastor of Fisher Hill Community Baptist Church; and

Whereas, formerly the pastor of Grafenwohr Baptist Church in Grafenwohr, Germany, from 1987 to 1991 and Bethlehem Baptist Church in Lawton, Oklahoma, from 1993 to 1995, Dr. McLendon was called to Fisher Hill in August 1997; and

Whereas, he served his country with distinction in the United States Army at stations across the country and in Germany for over seventeen years, retiring as a First Sergeant in the 82nd Airborne Division, HHB 3/19 Field Artillery; and

Whereas, the son of the late Luther and Leola McLendon of Lilesville, North Carolina, Dr. McLendon was called to the Gospel ministry in June 1983 and has been a soldier on the Lord’s battlefield for thirty‑nine years; and

Whereas, he earned an associate degree in theology from the Christian Bible College and Seminary in Ventura, California, and a master of divinity degree and a doctorate in theology from Gospel School of the Bible in Mineral Springs, North Carolina; and

Whereas, Dr. McLendon served as the former president of the Cheraw Branch of the NAACP, the vice president of the African American Ministerial Alliance, and a member of Cheraw Housing Authority Commission. In 1998, he founded Fisher Hill Bible College and serves as its president to serve hundreds of students, and he was a board member of Gospel Accrediting Association; and

Whereas, devoted to his community, he was on the executive board of directors for McLeod Cheraw Hospital and a board member for Mercy in Me Medical Clinic and Habitat for Humanity; and

Whereas, Dr. McLendon served as a commissioner for the Chesterfield County Board of Elections, 2nd vice president for the Cheraw Chamber of Commerce, and a board member for Chesterfield County Coordinating Council; and

Whereas, he has served as a chaplain for Agape Hospice of Chesterfield and Marlboro counties and for Chesterfield Sheriff’s Department; and

Whereas, under Dr. McLendon’s leadership, Fisher Hill became the first black church in the Cheraw area to be incorporated. The church purchased land for its first cemetery, a second site was donated, and the church’s second mortgage was fully paid; and

Whereas, thirteen new ministries were established, including the Food Bank, and the first female deacon was ordained. In 2005, the church was renovated and the Family Life Center was completed, and in 2010, the church sanctuary was renovated and the church fellowship hall in 2014. New purchases included a second van, a 23‑passenger church bus, a 44‑passenger church bus, and a TV monitoring system for the sanctuary and fellowship hall; and

Whereas, together with his lovely wife, Barbara, he reared two fine children, Johnnie, Jr., a graduate of University of South Carolina, and Chynna Marie, a student at Francis Marion University; and

Whereas, Dr. McLendon’s motto, “only what you do for Christ will last,” sustained the church during the COVID‑19 Pandemic: the congregation received wisdom and vision from his words of inspiration, exaltation, and comfort, and God enabled the congregation to pay bills; make repairs, replacements, and additions; and provide a place for social distancing. 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. Johnnie McLendon, pastor of Fisher Hill Community Baptist Church, upon the occasion of his twenty‑fifth year of meaningful ministry to the congregation and to the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Johnnie McLendon.

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