**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR MAZIE G. LEWIS FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION AND THE ARTS AND FOR HER WIDE‑RANGING COMMUNITY SERVICE AND TO CONGRATULATE HER UPON BEING NAMED A 2015 HONOREE OF THE LITTLE BLACK DRESS SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is pleased to learn that the Little Black Dress Scholarship Committee will honor Mazie G. Lewis for her outstanding work in education and the arts, as well as for her many years of exemplary community service; and

Whereas, on Saturday, March 21, 2015, the recipients of the 2015 award will be recognized at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Columbia at the Little Black Dress Scholarship Luncheon, which seeks to generate camaraderie while honoring distinguished women who have given service to the community. Proceeds from the event are contributed to a well‑deserving disadvantaged student; and

Whereas, Mazie Dell Glover Lewis, a retired elementary music teacher, enjoyed thirty‑five years interacting with students in grades Pre‑K4 through seventh grade. While she was growing up on a farm in Bowman, Mazie’s parents encouraged her love of music by giving her piano lessons, and she assisted her high school choral director. In 1971, she received her bachelor’s degree in music education from Claflin University; and

Whereas, Mazie began her teaching career at Buist Elementary School in Charleston. In 1976, she received a master’s degree in elementary education from the College of Charleston and, after moving to Columbia during that same year, taught music at Hyatt Park Elementary until retiring in May 2006. She served Richland District One for many years as lead teacher for elementary music; and

Whereas, throughout her career, she rendered musical services countless times for weddings, funerals, and programs for various organizations, often with little or no pay. She initially gave service in God’s house by playing for Vacation Bible School at her father’s family church, next playing for the youth choir at her church. She became the church’s pianist and later its first paid musician; and

Whereas, after moving to Charleston, she worked with the choir at her new church home and served also as assistant organist at a sister church. Having next moved to Columbia, Mazie became interim music director at First Calvary Baptist Church, following which she continued serving God at Ridge View Presbyterian Church. She officially retired from full‑time church musicianship in December 2001. Mazie continues to assist as needed at Dorn Veterans Hospital’s Sunday Chapel and special ward services; and

Whereas, Mazie has rendered countless hours of service to her church and community beyond the world of the arts. Among many other endeavors, she is a member of First Calvary Baptist Church’s madrigal group and missionary society, as well as the Church Aid Club and Sunday School. She is also a life member of the National Council of Negro Women, a current officer in the Columbia Chapter of Claflin University International Alumni Association, and former volunteer for the American Heart Association and March of Dimes. While actively teaching, Mazie served her co‑workers as president of the Richland County Education Association for four years; and

Whereas, the Senate appreciates the contributions that Mazie G. Lewis has made to education and the arts, as well as her many years of caring community service, and the members applaud her inclusion as a 2015 honoree of the Little Black Dress Scholarship Committee. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, honor Mazie G. Lewis for her contributions to education and the arts and for her wide‑ranging community service and congratulate her upon being named a 2015 honoree of the Little Black Dress Scholarship Committee.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Mazie G. Lewis.

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