**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND TUCAPAU BAPTIST CHURCH OF STARTEX FOR ITS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND TO EXTEND WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF THE CHURCH’S HISTORIC ONE HUNDRED TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

Whereas, having been founded in 1898, Tucapau Baptist Church of Startex is celebrating its historic one hundred twentieth anniversary in 2018; and

Whereas, with approximately thirty‑five charter members, Tucapau Baptist Church was organized on February 18, 1898, the first meeting place being a house on the corner of Chestnut Street just opposite the present building. After a few months, the newly fledged church moved its location to a room over the mill store, which was used by all the village churches. The Baptist church held services there approximately two years; and

Whereas, church minutes indicate that a committee was appointed on February 19, 1898, to locate a lot on which to construct a church building. On June 18, 1899, plans for the building were adopted and a building fund started. The church progressed rapidly, and the building, located across the bridge opposite the mill and up on the hill, was completed in 1900. Growth continued, and on September 19, 1926, the church voted to add seventeen classrooms and install a modern heating plant; and

Whereas, under the leadership of the Reverend F.M. Lindler, the church grew spiritually, numerically, and financially. Reverend Lindler initiated a building program for a new facility. A beautiful lot on Chestnut Street was given to the church as a building site by Mr. Walter S. Montgomery, president of Startex Mills, and the old church building was sold to the mill for the price of five thousand dollars; and

Whereas, groundbreaking for the new building was held September 5, 1948, with Governor J. Strom Thurmond as the featured speaker. On September 4, 1949, with a membership of three hundred forty‑three, Tucapau Baptist formally occupied its present church building, which was constructed at a cost of $130,033.46. At that time, only one charter member survived, Mrs. Nettie Jackson. Church members remained faithful to their task, and on September 2, 1951, a mortgage burning was held, and the church was formally dedicated to the service of God; and

Whereas, during the long history of Tucapau Baptist Church, beginning with the church’s first pastor, the Reverend C.P. Erwin, and continuing with the church’s current pastor, the Reverend Jeffery Mark Eubanks, seventeen faithful men of God have served as undershepherds at Tucapau. All have contributed to the advancement of God’s kingdom. Led by Dr. Ronnie Cox, the church’s home mission ministry was established in 1980 and continues to this day. Tucapau’s international ministry, headed by Dr. W.C. Pate, Jr., was inaugurated through Carpenters for Christ. On January 1, 2018, Reverend Eubanks initiated the LAUNCH program, designed to unite the church for the purpose of reaching the local community; and

Whereas, Tucapau Baptist Church has been a beacon of light in the Startex community for one hundred twenty years, and, God willing, will continue its godly heritage in many more years of worship and service. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, commend Tucapau Baptist Church of Startex for its many years of service to the community and extend warmest congratulations on the occasion of the church’s historic one hundred twentieth anniversary.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Tucapau Baptist Church.

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