**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE BISHOP FREDERICK C. JAMES ON THE OCCASION OF HIS ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HIM A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MUCH HAPPINESS IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to learn that Bishop Frederick C. James will celebrate this important milestone on April 7, 2022; and

Whereas, a native of Prosperity, Bishop James was born on April 7, 1922 to parents Rosa Lee Gray and Edward James. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and English from Allen University in 1943 and a Master of Divinity degree from the Howard University School of Divinity in 1947. He also attended Dickerson Theological Seminary and Union Theological Seminary; and

Whereas, Bishop James began his career as pastor of Friendship AME Church in 1945. He went on to serve as pastor of Bishop’s Memorial AME Church in Columbia in 1946 and of Wayman AME Church in Winnsboro in 1947. In 1949, he became the dean of Dickerson Theological Seminary and became pastor of Chappelle Memorial AME Church in Columbia a year later; and

Whereas, in 1953, Bishop James moved to Sumter to assume the pastorship of Mt. Pisgah AME Church. In 1960, he was elected Director of Social Action for the AME Church. Two years later, he helped organize and chaired the Sumter Citizens Committee. In 1963, he became president of the Effective Sumter Movement; and

Whereas, Bishop James was elected the 93rd bishop of the AME Church in 1972. He served the 18th and 15th Episcopal Districts from 1972 to 1976, the 12th from 1976 to 1984, the 7th from 1984 to 1992, and the 2nd from 1993 to 1996. He also led Shorter College in Little Rock, Arkansas to full accreditation in 1981 and Allen University to full accreditation in 1992. He then served as Ecumenical Bishop and Chaplaincy Endorsement Officer of the AME Church before retiring in 1996; and

Whereas, a civic leader, Bishop James served as the chair of Allen University, the chair of the Howard Junior High School Center in Prosperity, and a member of the Columbia Housing Authority. He was also a member of the delegation sent to attend the inauguration of South African President Nelson Mandela in 1994; and

Whereas, Bishop James is a former member of the White House Advisory Board on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and of the United States State Department’s Advisory Board on Religious Freedom. He served as National Vice President of the Interfaith Alliance. He is a life member of the NAACP and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and is a 33-degree Mason; and

Whereas, Bishop James holds an honorary doctorate of humanities from Monrovia College in Liberia. He received the Order of the Palmetto in 2003 and the Leon A. Love Lifetime Achievement Award from the South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation and Columbia SC 63: Our Story Matters in 2020. He has been inducted into the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame and the Columbia Housing Authority Wall of Fame; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate takes great pleasure in honoring this son of South Carolina at the celebration of his one hundredth birthday and is pleased to join with his family and friends in congratulating him. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Bishop Frederick C. James on the occasion of his one hundredth birthday and wish him a joyous birthday celebration and much happiness in the days ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Bishop Frederick C. James.

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