**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NAME THE PORTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY 48 IN RICHLAND COUNTY FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH AVALON STREET TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH PINEVIEW ROAD “REVEREND JAMES JEFFCOAT MEMORIAL HIGHWAY” AND TO ERECT APPROPRIATE MARKERS OR SIGNS ALONG THIS PORTION OF HIGHWAY CONTAINING THESE WORDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly were saddened to hear of the passing of Reverend James Jeffcoat, Sr., on February 9, 2019; and

Whereas, born on May 6, 1927, in Swansea, he was a son of the late Deacon Wilfred and Elizabeth Glover Jeffcoat. On January 15, 1949, he was joined in holy matrimony with the love of his life, Berthelma Starkes. For seventy years, they spent their lives together until his departure; and

Whereas, in his walk with Jesus, Reverend Jeffcoat became a member of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. At the age of twenty‑seven he was called to the ministry and received a certificate from the Theological school at Benedict College. Subsequently, he went on to pastor seven churches: Platt Springs Baptist in West Columbia, Williams Street Baptist in Columbia, First Mt. Beulah Baptist in Swansea, Jones Chapel Baptist in Orangeburg, First Baptist in St. Matthews, Goodland Baptist in Bamberg, and Antioch Missionary Baptist in the town of North; and

Whereas, Reverend Jeffcoat’s other affiliations included moderator of the Mount Olive Baptist Association and the Mount Pisgah Union, president of the Mount Olive Baptist Convention, Free and Accepted York Rite Mason, Past Worshipful Master of the Ridgewood Lodge #630, and for a number of years he served as Grand Chaplain for the State of South Carolina. After sixty‑five years in the ministry, Reverend Jeffcoat retired from pastoring, but never stopped teaching the word of God throughout the State and beyond; and

Whereas, Reverend Jeffcoat considered it one of the crowning achievements of his life that he was able to persuade Berthelma to become his dear wife. God blessed them with ten fine children: James, Jr., Wilfred II, Fagner, Matthew, Floyd, Joseph, Patricia, Charles, Clarence, and Shirley who went on to bless them with twenty grandchildren and twenty‑eight great‑grandchildren; and

Whereas, ever hospitable, for some twenty‑nine years the Jeffcoats hosted the annual family and friends day at their home the first Saturday in August. Here more than two hundred family members, friends, neighbors, and strangers alike enjoyed food, fun and games; and

Whereas, it is fitting and proper that members of the General Assembly honor the life of Reverend James Jeffcoat for his selfless devotion to God and family by naming a highway in Richland County in his memory. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That members of the South Carolina General Assembly request the Department of Transportation name the portion of South Carolina Highway 48 in Richland County from its intersection with Avalon Street to its intersection with Pineview Road “Reverend James Jeffcoat Memorial Highway” and to erect appropriate markers or signs along this portion of highway containing these words.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Department of Transportation.

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