**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR THE REVEREND RICKEY LETSON, SENIOR MINISTER OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAURENS, FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS IN GOSPEL MINISTRY; TO THANK HIM FOR HIS NINE YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND OUR STATE; AND TO WISH HIM GOD’S RICHEST BLESSINGS AS HE CONTINUES TO SERVE THE LORD.

Whereas, it is entirely appropriate to celebrate those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to nurture the souls of men. The Reverend Rickey Letson, senior minister of First Baptist Church in Laurens, stands among their number as an outstanding minister of the gospel, one much admired by colleagues, congregation, and area residents at large; and

Whereas, the Reverend Rickey Letson began serving as pastor of First Baptist Church of Laurens in May 2012. A native of Alabama and a graduate of Samford University and Duke Divinity School, Pastor Letson served churches in North Carolina, Kentucky, and Georgia before coming to South Carolina; and

Whereas, over the course of his nine years in Laurens, he led First Baptist Church to a period of sustained numerical and financial growth. At the same time, he increased the church’s missions and outreach work in the local community, throughout South Carolina and the rest of the United States, and abroad. Moreover, he led the church through a successful multimillion‑dollar capital campaign; and

Whereas, as part of his service to the community, Reverend Letson served on the boards of numerous local organizations, including the Laurens Leadership Project, and he was instrumental in bringing to Laurens a chapter of Family Promise, an organization committed to fighting homelessness; and

Whereas, truly, this man of God lives out the biblical injunction expressed in Colossians 3:17 (ESV): “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him”; and

Whereas, Rickey Letson finds strength for his labors in the firm support of his family. Married to Ann Marie, he and his wife are the proud parents of two children: Callie, a freshman at Auburn University, and Caleb, an eighth grader. Reverend Letson and his family will be deeply missed by First Baptist Church, and the congregation extends its love and appreciation to them for their nine years of faithful service at First Baptist; and

Whereas, to honor Pastor Letson and his family, First Baptist will hold a special service of recognition on his last day of ministry at the church, Sunday, May 2, 2021; and

Whereas, grateful for Rickey Letson’s many years of spiritual nourishment of the people of South Carolina, the House extends fervent wishes for God’s best in his life and ministry as he continues to run the race the Lord has set before him. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor the Reverend Rickey Letson, senior minister of First Baptist Church of Laurens, for his faithfulness in gospel ministry; thank him for his nine years of service to the community and our State; and wish him God’s richest blessings as he continues to serve the Lord.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Reverend Rickey Letson.

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