**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR THE REVEREND JAMES D. LEE FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS IN GOSPEL MINISTRY; TO THANK HIM FOR HIS TWELVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO MOUNT MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH AND THE COMMUNITY; AND TO WISH HIM GOD’S RICHEST BLESSINGS IN HIS RETIREMENT.

Whereas, it is entirely appropriate that the South Carolina House of Representatives celebrate those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to nurture the souls of men. The Reverend James D. Lee, recently retired pastor of Mount Moriah Baptist Church in Jenkinsville, stands among their number as an outstanding minister of the gospel, one much admired by colleagues, congregation, and the Fairfield County community; and

Whereas, the oldest son of seven children born to Council T. and Odella J. Lee of Statesboro, Georgia, the young James was educated in the Bulloch County public school system and graduated from William James High School. Answering the call of his country, this patriotic American joined the United States Army and served two tours in South Vietnam. As a skilled soldier, James rose through the ranks of the Army, achieving the rank of command sergeant major. After serving for twenty‑three years, he retired in June 1985 from Fort Jackson; and

Whereas, this graduate of Midlands Technical College enjoyed working in management for over twenty‑two years in the food service industry and retired in November 2007. He received many awards during his food service career, such as being named Boss of the Year by the Midlands Chapter of the American Business Women’s Association; and

Whereas, in 1982, James Lee joined First Nazareth Baptist Church. Over the years, he joyfully served there in the capacity of usher, president of the Sunshine Garden Club Ministry, church school superintendent, kitchen coordinator, deacon, trustee, and associate minister. He diligently served with the Capital City Union Usher Ministry as a member and chaplain. He was honored with various awards for his labors for the Lord in these ministries; and

Whereas, in further preparation for his ministry, he graduated from the Morris College Ministerial Extension Course in April 2006. Called by God to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, James Lee delivered his initial sermon in December 2006 at First Nazareth Baptist Church. He was ordained by the South Carolina Midlands Baptist Association in December 2007 and shortly thereafter, was installed as pastor at Mount Moriah Baptist Church where he served for over twelve years; and

Whereas, under the leadership of Pastor Lee, Mount Moriah paid off the church mortgage nineteen years early, installed a video and sound system in the sanctuary and fellowship hall, became an active member of the Midlands Baptist Association, and initiated new ministries, including the Senior Citizen Committee, Men’s Choir, Youth Ministry, Golf Ministry, the Lost Sheep Ministry, and began the church’s FAN (Faith‑Activity‑Nutrition) Program. Additionally, the church hosted a number of conferences under their roof; and

Whereas, Reverend Lee finds strength for his labors in the strong support of his beloved wife, Brenda Lemons Lee; their three children, Lorie Anderson, Tonia R.Y. Lee, and Donald D. Lee; ten wonderful grandchildren; and seven delightful great‑grandchildren; and

Whereas, grateful for Reverend Lee’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 wish him many years of enjoyment in his well‑earned retirement. 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 James D. Lee for his faithfulness in gospel ministry, thank him for his twelve years of service to Mount Moriah Baptist Church and the community, and wish him God’s richest blessings in his retirement.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Reverend James D. Lee.

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