**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE ETHEL MAE SAVANNAH UNDERWOOD ATKINSON ON THE OCCASION OF HER NINETIETH BIRTHDAY AND TO WISH HER A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are delighted to pause in their deliberations to join Ethel Mae Savannah Underwood Atkinson who celebrated her ninetieth birthday on Sunday, May 30, 2021; and

Whereas, born on May 30, 1931, Ethel was the fifth of six children born to Gertrude and Chester Arthur Underwood of Abbeville; and

Whereas, in 1947, Ethel moved from Abbeville to Chester, which continues to be her home, and graduated from Finley High School on May 5, 1949; and

Whereas, a few short years later, on September 7, 1952, Ethel married Richard Samuel Atkinson. They shared forty-one years of marriage together and were blessed with two children, Rickki Sandra and Ellen Darlene. The couple experienced the blessings and trials of life together until Richard passed on Thanksgiving Day of 1993; and

Whereas, fortunate to have been blessed with a long and active life, Ethel has been privileged to spend time loving her four grandchildren, Christopher Richard, Dustin Joseph, Jonelle Rickki, and John Riley; as well as her two great-grandchildren, Riley Joy and Trenton Jru; and

Whereas, during the course of her life, Ethel worked as a Home Health Aide for the Chester County Health Department for twenty-five years. Dedicated and hardworking, she received the South Carolina State Award of Recognition for Outstanding Service to Home Health Services as Direct Caregiver of the Year in 1989. Shortly after, in 1991, she chose to retire and begin a new chapter of her life; and

Whereas, a member of the Leroy Springs Golden Age Club, Ethel regularly participates in the Senior Sports Classics events where she’s earned numerous ribbons and medals, and has been an active member in the Senior Aerobics class; and

Whereas, experiencing great joy through traveling, Ethel has become quite seasoned while taking trips with her longtime friend, Julius Bowey, including making visits to Hawaii, Mexico, London, Paris, and three cruises to the Bahamas; and

Whereas, a woman of faith, Ethel is a member of Calvary Baptist church of Chester, where she has served as vice president of the Madison Worthy Usher Ministry; and

Whereas, giving of her time and her talents to others, she is also a member of the Queen Bathsheba Chapter No. 7 Order of Eastern Stars; and

Whereas, birthdays provide a special time and opportunity to celebrate and honor those of great importance in our lives. It is a great pleasure for the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives to recognize Ethel Mae Savannah Underwood Atkinson, who celebrated her ninetieth birthday on May 30, 2021, and to offer her sincere best wishes for continued good health and an abundance of joy in the coming years. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Ethel Mae Savannah Underwood Atkinson on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday and to wish her a joyous birthday celebration.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Ethel Mae Savannah Underwood Atkinson.

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