**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE UPON THE PASSING OF SONYA THERESA SMITH BURGESS OF WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY, AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate was deeply saddened to learn of the sudden and tragic death of Sonya Theresa Smith Burgess on February 18, 2013; and

Whereas, born on March 27, 1973 in Estill, South Carolina, Sonya graduated from Claflin University with a strong desire to reach out to young people, both in the classroom and as a role model; and

Whereas, Sonya was married to Marcus Burgess and they were the proud parents of three wonderful children; and

Whereas, for the last thirteen years Sonya has been a vital faculty member at Kingstree High School, serving as Chair of the Science Department and Teacher Cadet Director; and

Whereas, for the last ten years, Sonya has been Coach of the girls varsity basketball team, and she was selected in 2012 as an assistant coach for the South team in the North‑South All‑Star Game; and

Whereas, Coach Sonya Burgess has been a life‑changing influence on countless young people, both in the athletic arena and beyond. She has touched the lives of countless individuals, young and old, students and friends, family and strangers, and her legacy will live on as a role model for us all to follow. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the South Carolina Senate expresses profound sorrow upon the passing of Sonya Smith Burgess and extends its deepest sympathy to her family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the family of Sonya Smith Burgess.

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