**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE UPON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE FLOYD BUCKNER OF COLLETON COUNTY AND TO EXTEND DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Floyd Buckner of Colleton County on July 23, 2011, at the age of sixty‑nine; and

Whereas, fueled by a passion for learning and a desire to enrich and empower himself with a solid education, Floyd Buckner graduated from the former Ruffin High School in 1960, and later earned his bachelor of arts in education degree from Benedict College in 1964 and his master of education degree from the former South Carolina State College in 1970; and

Whereas, in 1972, Mr. Buckner began a career in education that spanned almost four decades, his first assignment being at Jenkins Hill Middle School in Harleyville, where he served as principal. He became principal of Forest Hills Elementary School in Walterboro in 1974, the next year accepting the position of Title I Program director for the Colleton County School District, from which he retired after thirty‑nine years of service; and

Whereas, a trailblazer for African Americans in Colleton County, Mr. Buckner is noted for being the first African American to achieve several milestones during his lifetime. In 1982, he was elected to the Colleton County Council, becoming the first African American elected to the council and the first African American to win a runoff election in Colleton County. He served on the council for the following twenty‑eight years, and in 1992 he became the first African American to chair as its chairman; and

Whereas, in addition, he achieved several other firsts in his career of public service. In 1990, he was the first African American to serve as bank board director (First Federal Savings and Loan); in 1992, he was the first African American to serve on the Walterboro Colleton Airport Commission; and in 1996, he began publishing the first black‑owned newspaper in Colleton County. Floyd Buckner was also the first president of the Arabian Temple #139, Walterboro Shrine Club; and

Whereas, in recognition of his public service, the Floyd Buckner Title I Parent Center in Walterboro was named in his honor in 1995, as was Walterboro’s Floyd Buckner Building in 1998. The latter honor made him the first African American to have a Colleton County government building bear his name; and

Whereas, at the time of his death, he was serving on the board of directors for First Federal Savings; and

Whereas, his son, B’wana, having predeceased him, Mr. Buckner leaves to cherish his memory his son Dwayne (Melissa); four grandchildren; one great‑grandchild; and a host of other family members and friends. He will be missed. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, express the profound sorrow upon the death of the Honorable Floyd Buckner of Colleton County and extend deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of the Honorable Floyd Buckner.

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