**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE UPON THE PASSING OF JACK SMYSER FOLLINE OF RICHLAND COUNTY, AND TO EXTEND THEIR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS LARGE AND LOVING FAMILY AND HIS MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate were saddened to learn of the death of Jack Smyser Folline at the age of eighty‑one on March 23, 2012; and

Whereas, born in Florence on January 18, 1931, the son of the late James Evans and Emily Saunders Folline, he spent his youth in Richmond, Virginia, and his summers with his dearly loved “Suits Mama” in Hendersonville, North Carolina; and

Whereas, he attended Brevard College, served in the United States Army during the Korean War, and earned a bachelor’s degree in marketing and retailing from the University of South Carolina in 1957, where he was a member of Kappa Alpha Order; and

Whereas, after graduation, Jack Folline worked for Bausch & Lomb from 1958 to 1964 as the regional sales manager for Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina; and

Whereas, following his years with Bausch & Lomb, he became the business manager of the Columbia Eye Clinic, establishing Folline Opticians there, and over the years, he founded Folline Vision Centers, expanding his optical business to include over twenty optical shops and Palmetto Optical Laboratory, a wholesale laboratory and a leading provider of safety eyewear in the Southeast; and

Whereas, he co‑founded Palmetto Optical Supply, a company that consolidated the buying power of independent opticians and the first optical buying group in the country; and

Whereas, one of the first two opticians to serve on the South Carolina Board of Examiners in Optometry, he was instrumental in forming a separate board for opticians, the South Carolina Board of Examiners in Opticianry, where he served as the first and continuing chairman for twenty‑two years; and

Whereas, Jack Folline was the first president and a founder of the South Carolina Association of Dispensing Opticians and a trustee of the Southeastern Society of Dispensing Opticians, and in 1982, he was named South Carolina Optician of the Year; and

Whereas, from 1981 to 1983, he served on the board and management committee of the Opticians Association of America, and in 2002, he was selected to the Hall of Fame of the National Academy of Opticianry; and

Whereas, deeply committed to serving his community, he was a member of the board of trustees of both Brevard College and Converse College and the board of the Columbia Museum of Art, an elected member of the Board of Visitors of the Medical University of South Carolina, and a past chairman of the Columbia board of directors of NBSC; and

Whereas, in 1999, he received the Order of Palmetto, the state’s highest civilian honor bestowed by the Governor of South Carolina; and

Whereas, a faithful member of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, he was a member of numerous social clubs and served as president of the Camellia Ball; and

Whereas, together with his beloved wife of over fifty years, Elaine Finklea Folline, he reared two fine daughters, Lanie Folline Epting and Emily Folline Mikell, who blessed them with five adoring grandchildren, Elaine Epting, Blaire Epting, Lee Mikell, Jr., Adela Mikell, and Melissa Mikell; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful for the life and legacy of Jack Smyser Folline and for the example of sacrifice and kindness he set for all who knew him. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, express their profound sorrow upon the passing of Jack Smyser Folline of Richland County, and extend their deepest sympathy to his large and loving family and his many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the family of Jack Smyser Folline.

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