**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF JAMES E. DAVIS, SR., AND HIS BELOVED WIFE, BESSIE MAE PETERSON DAVIS, BOTH OF SUMTER COUNTY, AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THEIR FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly were deeply saddened to learn of the death of James E. Davis, Sr., of Sumter County, as well as that of his beloved wife, Bessie Mae Peterson Davis, also of Sumter County, on May 2, 2011, at the respective ages of eighty‑one and seventy‑nine; and

Whereas, the two were happily married for sixty‑two years, and “in their death they were not divided”; and

Whereas, born in Lee County on May 20, 1929, James E. “Sonny” Davis, Sr., was a son of Walter and Hettie Gass Davis. He was educated in the public schools of Sumter County; and

Whereas, his strong work ethic was exemplified in his faithful service over five decades of employment with Melvin Brown Farms; and

Whereas, a man of faith, at an early age he joined Antioch United Methodist Church, where he served as a member of the United Methodist Men, usher board, and board of trustees. In addition, he was a Master Mason member of the Liberty Hill Masonic Lodge No. 357; and

Whereas, those fortunate enough to know Sonny Davis valued him as a man tall in stature but humble in heart; and

Whereas, Bessie Mae Peterson Davis, affectionately known as “Thick,” was a virtuous, loving woman and a fortress in strength. She was born on July 28, 1931, in Lee County, the daughter of Ernest Peterson and Hester Ann Clark Peterson; and

Whereas, Mrs. Davis joined Mt. Moriah United Methodist Church at a young age and later became a member of Antioch United Methodist Church, where she served as a member of the United Methodist Women and the usher board; and

Whereas, a dedicated employee of the Campbell Soup Company, from which she retired, she was also a devout member of the Marshall Chapter Order of the Eastern Star No. 239. She had a passion for flowers and was often seen pruning her azaleas; and

Whereas, James and Bessie Mae Davis leave to cherish their memory their children, James (Jackie) Davis, Jr., Rosa Mae Davis Jones, Diann (Ernest) Davis Frierson, Johnny Lee (Mary) Davis, Warren Davis, Bettie Jean (Kevin) Davis Wicks, Loris Geneva (Felix) Davis Williams, and Wilfred Bernard (Jennifer) Davis; numerous grandchildren and great‑grandchildren; and a host of other family members and friends. They will be greatly missed. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, express their profound sorrow upon the passing of James E. Davis, Sr., and his beloved wife, Bessie Mae Peterson Davis, both of Sumter County, and extend the deepest sympathy to their family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the family of James E. Davis, Sr., and Bessie Mae Peterson Davis.

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