**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE DEATH OF BILLY JOE SHARPE OF BARNWELL COUNTY AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Billy Joe Sharpe of Barnwell County on December 19, 2011; and

Whereas, born in Columbia on March 2, 1943, Billy Joe Sharpe was the son of Reverend James Charles Sharpe and Lillie Spradley Wylie; and

Whereas, he was a United States Air Force veteran and owner of the Hilda Garage and served for thirty‑eight years as chief of the Hilda Fire Department; and

Whereas, founder and operator of the Hilda Athletic Club for more than thirty‑eight years, Mr. Sharpe served as president of South Carolina USA Boxing for seventeen years and retired as a Ranger with the South Carolina Forestry Commission after thirty‑three years’ service; and

Whereas, as a man of faith, he served as a deacon at Hilda First Baptist Church. In addition, he was the secretary of Hilda Masonic Lodge 426 and a member of the Omar Shrine Temple and The Gideons International; and

Whereas, he leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Mary Dyches Sharpe; two sons, Joe Sharpe and Thomas Sharpe; six grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends. He will be dearly missed. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, express their profound sorrow upon the death of Billy Joe Sharpe of Barnwell County and extend the deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mrs. Mary Dyches Sharpe for the family.

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