**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE DEATH OF MAMIE REARDEN OF EDGEFIELD AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Mamie Rearden of Edgefield on Wednesday, January 2, 2013, at the venerable age of one hundred fourteen; and

Whereas, born in Edgefield on September 7, 1898, when William McKinley was president of the United States, Mamie Rearden was raised in her hometown and lived there all her life; and

Whereas, her father sent her off to earn a teaching certificate at Bettis Academy on the far side of the county. She spent an entire day on a loaded wagon to reach the school along dirt roads. Mrs. Rearden taught for several years, but after getting married and starting a family she left teaching to become a homemaker and with her husband, Oacy, raised a fine family of eleven children. Oacy Rearden died in 1979 at the age of eighty‑eight after fifty‑nine years of marriage to his beloved Mamie; and

Whereas, Mrs. Rearden obtained her first driver’s license at age sixty‑five and at about the same time became a case worker for an anti‑poverty program; and

Whereas, a woman of Christian faith and a member of the Baptist church, Mamie Rearden lived out her beliefs according to the Golden Rule, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you;” and

Whereas, at the time of her death, Mamie Rearden had the distinction of being the oldest living citizen of the United States. She lived in the family homestead with a son and a daughter on land that had been in the family since her father’s accumulation of acreage made him one of the area’s largest black landowners; and

Whereas, she leaves to cherish her memory ten surviving children and a host of other family members and friends. She will be greatly 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 Mamie Rearden of Edgefield and extend the deepest sympathy to her family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the family of Mrs. Mamie Rearden.

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