**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF VALERIA HOWARD STALEY OF ORANGEBURG COUNTY AND TO EXTEND THEIR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER LARGE AND LOVING FAMILY AND HER MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina were saddened to learn of the death of Valeria Howard Staley at the age of 87 on Tuesday, January 29, 2013; and

Whereas, the daughter and fifth child of George Washington Howard and Eliza Ruth Williams Howard, she attended Georgetown County public schools and graduated from Howard High School; and

Whereas, she studied English and library science at Talladega College, the University of Chicago, the University of California at Los Angeles, Columbia University, and Rutgers University; and

Whereas, as a professional librarian and teacher, Valeria Staley held positions at Howard High School and at Florida A&M University; for more than thirty years, she served in acquisitions and reference at the South Carolina State University Library and beginning in 1969, she served for more than three decades on the board of the Orangeburg County Library; and

Whereas, not only was she an influential leader, having been the guiding force in developing the current Orangeburg County Library facility, and an esteemed professional in her field, having served on many state and national library associations throughout her career, but she also is fondly remembered at South Carolina State University for her avid support of Bulldog athletics and her personal attention and dedication to helping students succeed; and

Whereas, a devoted congregant at Williams Chapel AME Church, she was a founding member of the David Wallace Usher Board and of the Women’s Auxiliary; and

Whereas, she held a lifetime membership in the NAACP and in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; she was a founding member of the 13 Hearts Bridge Club and the Bulldog Swingers athletic support club; and she was a fifty year member of Edisto Chapter No. 258 of the Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Rite of Adoption for the State of South Carolina and its Jurisdiction; and

Whereas, for her life in public service and her selfless devotion to serving others through a myriad of avenues, she was honored with the Order of the Palmetto; and

Whereas, together with her beloved husband, Frank M. Staley, Jr., she reared two fine children, Frank H. Staley and Elisa C. Staley; and

Whereas, Valeria was a talented seamstress and enjoyed traveling, reading, cooking, playing bridge, and gardening; she was especially proud of her beautiful azaleas and camellias; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the life and legacy of Valeria Howard Staley and for the example of sacrifice and kindness she set for all who knew her. 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 passing of Valeria Howard Staley of Orangeburg County and extend their deepest sympathy to her large and loving family and her many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the family of Valeria Howard Staley.

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