**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE DEATH OF MELVIN HENNIES THOMAS, SR., OF CHESTER 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 Melvin Hennies Thomas, Sr., of Chester on March 31, 2014; and

Whereas, born September 2, 1951, in Chester County to Willie Mack Thomas, Sr., and Naomi Feaster Thomas, the young Melvin was educated in the public schools of Fairfield County, graduating from McCrorey Liston High School in 1969. He received his bachelor’s degree in business administration from Winthrop University in 1974; and

Whereas, having confessed Christ at an early age, he became a member of New Hope Baptist Church, where he served faithfully as trustee, church treasurer, and deacon, a position for which he was ordained in 2010; and

Whereas, Mr. Thomas was employed by Springs Industries for fifteen years. In addition, he was an entrepreneur and sole proprietor of Thomas Pulpwood and Tree Service, Honey‑Do Odd Jobs for Cash, and M.H. Thomas Scrap Metal Recovery; and

Whereas, in his spare time he enjoyed refinishing antique furniture, playing billiards, and taking care of his family; and

Whereas, Deacon Thomas leaves to cherish his memory his loving and devoted wife of thirty‑six years, Valeria Starks Thomas; his son, Melvin Hennies Thomas, Jr.; his daughter, Crystal Necole Thomas; and a host of other family members and friends. He will be 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 Melvin Hennies Thomas, Sr., of Chester and extend the deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Mrs. Valeria Starks Thomas for the family.

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