**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF JAMES HAMPTON DARBY OF ANDREWS, TO CELEBRATE HIS LIFE, 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 by the passing of James Hampton Darby of Andrews on January 10, 2021, at the venerable age of ninety; and

Whereas, born to the late David Darby and the late Orean Gibson Darby, James Hampton Darby came into this world on March 1, 1930, in the Trio community of Andrews. His parents died at an early age, and he was raised by the Reverend Edward and Sarah Gibson, his grandparents, whom he affectionately called Mama and Papa. Brother James H. Darby, a kind and loving man, accepted Christ at an early age and became a member of St. John AME Church in Trio; and

Whereas, Brother Darby was a 1947 graduate of Howard High School in Georgetown. In further preparation for his career, he attended Allen University and received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Maryland, followed by his Master of Education and Ed.S. from the University of South Carolina; and

Whereas, in 1950, he joined the United States Air Force, where he served his country for twenty‑two years, retiring in 1972. Sergeant Darby served in many locales, such as France, Okinawa, and Vietnam, as well as Virginia, New Jersey, Florida, South Carolina, and Alaska in the United States; and

Whereas, in April 1953, he was united in holy matrimony to the former Bernice Myers, and they were married for fifty‑five years before her passing. After his years in the military, he was employed first as an assistant principal and then as principal of Blakely School (now known as D.P. Cooper). He was director of Williamsburg County Special Services and served with honor as secretary and chairman of the Williamsburg County School Board for twelve years; and

Whereas, Mr. Darby’s achievements are numerous. He brought the JROTC to Williamsburg County, made the credit union available for Williamsburg County employees, served as the head of Trio Precinct for many years, and assisted many young people in Williamsburg County. Further, this dedicated family man was active in civil rights in Trio and beyond. He was instrumental in helping to elect the first Black magistrate in Williamsburg County since Reconstruction. Known as the Moses of Trio, he was a man who stood on principle and was not afraid to take a stand for righteousness; and

Whereas, he was preceded in death by his wife, Bernice; a son, Patrick Darby; a brother, Edward Gibson; and two sisters, Lula Mae McCrea and Sarah Tisdale. He leaves to cherish his memory three sons, Curtis H. Darby, the Reverend Alfred L. Darby, and James Darby II; two sisters, Sarah Graham and Pauline McCrea; three granddaughters, Lisa Canzater, Ami Durant, and Kimberly Snipes; one grandson, Quentin Singletary; six great‑grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, 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 passing of James Hampton Darby of Andrews, celebrate his life, and extend the deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Curtis H. Darby for the family.

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