**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE SINCEREST SORROW OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEATH OF ORANGEBURG COUNTY’S AUSTIN CUNNINGHAM, AND ITS GRATITUDE FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TOWARD THE BETTERMENT OF HIS COMMUNITY AND THIS STATE.

Whereas, Austin Cunningham of Orangeburg County died January 26, 2009, at the age of 94; and

Whereas, Mr. Cunningham was born in Washington, D.C., son of the late Austin Cunningham and Clotilde Mattingly Cunningham. He served several years with the Federal Bureau of Investigation before joining the United States Army Air Corps in World War II. He received the Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Virginia. He was employed by Magnavox Corporation, and later became an executive with Sunbeam Outdoor Company, which led to his moving to Orangeburg; and

Whereas, adopting Orangeburg as his beloved home, he immediately undertook a leadership interest in many efforts to improve the Orangeburg quality of life and business climate. Most notable was his work to introduce the targeted jobs program to employ underprivileged teenagers in summer jobs. The program was very successful and he was recognized by President Reagan for his achievement; and

Whereas, he chaired the effort to raise funds to build The Regional Medical Center and led the People’s Assault on Drugs. He contributed to the Community of Character program, which began in 2000, by writing about the traits of character. Mr. Cunningham received many awards over the years, including the Order of the Palmetto. He was chosen Citizen of the Year by the Kiwanis Club of Orangeburg and, in 1988, he was selected Most Distinguished Elder Citizen of the Year; and

Whereas, a member of First Presbyterian Church and the Rotary Club of Orangeburg, Mr. Cunningham was the widower of Jacqueline Coder Cunningham and is survived by two daughters, Kathryn Janus of Manhattan and Amy Cunningham of Brooklyn, and son Austin Cunningham III of Swansea; two grandsons, Joseph and Gordon Waldman; and his younger sister, Mrs. Clotilde Luce of New York. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the General Assembly express their sincerest sorrow on the occasion of the death of Orangeburg County’s Austin Cunningham, and their gratitude for his many years of service toward the betterment of his community and this State.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Mr. Cunningham.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑