**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE UPON THE PASSING OF GREGORY WHITE SMITH OF AIKEN, AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Gregory White Smith on April 10, 2014 at the age of sixty‑two at his home in Aiken; and

Whereas, Greg was an award‑winning biographer as well as an accomplished musician, historic preservationist, art collector, philanthropist, attorney, and businessman; and

Whereas, Greg was born on October 4, 1951 in Ithaca, New York. He graduated from Colby College in Maine. Upon graduation, he spent a year in Europe studying music. He went on to attend Harvard University where he earned a law degree in 1977 and a master’s degree in education in 1978; and

Whereas, Greg is best known for a 1990 biography entitled “Jackson Pollock: An American Saga”, which he co‑authored with his partner, Steven Naifeh. Their book won a Pulitzer Prize. The two also wrote a biography of Vincent van Gogh and “The Mormon Murders”, both of which were best sellers; and

Whereas, Greg was also a singer and choral conductor. He founded the Colby Eight at Colby College in 1972 and served as assistant conductor of the Harvard Glee Club. Greg, along with Sandra Smith, founded the Juilliard in Aiken Festival in 2009. The festival is held annually at Joye Cottage in Aiken, a sixty‑room estate that Greg purchased with Steven Naifeh in 1989 and restored. The story of their renovation is told in their book *On a Street Called Easy, In a Cottage Called Joye*; and

Whereas, together with Steven Naifeh, Greg founded Best Lawyers in 1981, which publishes *The Best Lawyers in America*. In 2013, the peer review list ranked approximately 74,000 law firms in seventy‑five countries; and

Whereas, in 1975, Greg was diagnosed with hemangiopericytoma, a rare brain tumor. He spent his life looking for and undergoing innovative treatments, including brain surgeries, radiation, and chemotherapy. Greg’s story was featured on the CBS television news program “60 Minutes” in 2007; and

Whereas, in January 2014, Greg was named the 2013 “Man of the Year” by the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce. Greg was nominated and won the award for his vision to bring performing artists to Aiken County for the Juilliard in Aiken festival. In the past six years of the festival, over 22,000 students have been able to experience The Juilliard School through master classes, school visits, and band and orchestra practices, area vocalists and choral groups have participated in workshops, and over 17,000 community patrons have enjoyed the performances. Greg’s vision brings together the talent of artists in Aiken County and communities from across the country for a week of fine arts. Greg’s home, Joye Cottage, has been given to The Juilliard School so that artists will forever have a place to grow, perform and learn, letting Greg’s dream live on; and

Whereas, Greg is survived by his life partner, Steven Naifeh, and his sister, Linda Hirata. He will be greatly missed. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate, by this resolution, express their profound sorrow upon the passing of Gregory White Smith of Aiken, and extend their deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the family of Gregory White Smith.

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