**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPON THE DEATH OF MAMIE REARDEN OF EDGEFIELD AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, deeply saddened at the news, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly have learned of the death of Mamie Rearden of Edgefield on Wednesday, January 2, 2013, at the venerable age of one hundred fourteen; and

Whereas, while William McKinley was president of the United States, Mamie Rearden entered this world on September 7, 1898. She was raised in her hometown of Edgefield and lived there all her life; and

Whereas, her father sent her off to earn a teaching certificate at Bettis Academy on the far side of the county. She spent an entire day on a loaded wagon to reach the school along dirt roads. Mrs. Rearden taught for several years, but after getting married and starting a family she left teaching to become a homemaker and with her husband, Oacy, raised a fine family of eleven children. Oacy Rearden died in 1979 at the age of eighty‑eight after fifty‑nine years of marriage to his beloved Mamie; and

Whereas, at the age of sixty‑five, Mrs. Rearden obtained her first driver’s license and at about the same time became a case worker for an anti‑poverty program; and

Whereas, Mamie Rearden, a woman of Christian faith and a member of the Baptist church, lived out her beliefs according to the Golden Rule, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you;” and

Whereas, at the time of her death, she had the distinction of being the oldest living citizen of the United States. Mrs. Rearden lived in the family homestead with a son and a daughter on land that had been in the family since her father’s accumulation of acreage made him one of the area’s largest black landowners; and

Whereas, this cherished matriarch leaves to honor her memory ten surviving children, fifteen grandchildren, ten great‑grandchildren, one great‑great‑grandchild and a host of friends. She will be greatly missed. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, express their profound sorrow upon the death of Mamie Rearden of Edgefield and extend the deepest sympathy to her family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the family of Mrs. Mamie Rearden.

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