**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPON THE DEATH OF JONATHAN MCCRAY OF COLUMBIA AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Jonathan McCray of Columbia on December 14, 2012; and

Whereas, a native of St. Stephen, Jonathan McCray entered this world on July 10, 1948, the first of eleven children born to Lillie Bell Montgomery McCray Myers Perry. After graduating from Russellville High School in St. Stephen, young Jonathan joined the United States Army, serving honorably in Vicenza, Italy, and then in Vietnam. He received his bachelor’s degree from Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and his master’s degree from Antioch University; and

Whereas, he spent the early years of his postmilitary career as an entrepreneur in Philadelphia, where he created a thriving ice cream business. In the mid 1980s, he returned to his native Berkeley County, quickly achieving success as a businessman and political campaign manager. He then went on to manage transportation systems. As executive director of Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority in Florence for seven years, he managed a public transportation system serving fifteen counties; and

Whereas, upon the tragic and untimely demise of his sons, Akwesi and Wadi, from a 2002 head‑on automobile collision, Jonathan channeled his grief into a noble cause by founding the nonprofit Aki‑Wa Foundation, Inc., which holds as its mission the promotion of highway safety through engineering and design (STED); and

Whereas, Jonathan possessed a keen intellect and unique vision and was never devoid of innovative ideas. With an encyclopedic knowledge nurtured by a lifelong passion for reading, he was an artisan and builder with a special love for woodwork. He worked tirelessly with his own hands to transform his commercial building in Strawberry‑Moncks Corner into a fitting venue for community and church gatherings. When relaxing, he enjoyed tennis, golf, a walk in the woods, and music; and

Whereas, always looking out for others before himself, Jonathan in recent years gave back to the community by recognizing Berkeley County’s senior citizens through biannual dinners at his building. He also hosted free gospel concerts there to provide an uplifting spiritual and musical experience to all in attendance; and

Whereas, he leaves to cherish his memory his dear wife, Latika Bali; his beloved six‑year‑old daughter, Jiya Mila Bali McCray; his mother; and a host of other relatives and friends. He will be dearly 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 Jonathan McCray of Columbia and extend the deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Latika Bali for the family.

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