**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE DEATH OF SARA FERGUSON BRUNER OF BATESBURG‑LEESVILLE AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Sara Ferguson Bruner of Batesburg‑Leesville on August 27, 2013, at the venerable age of ninety‑three; and

Whereas, born in Allendale County on March 6, 1920, she was the only child of Perry Maner Ferguson and Eunice Augley Ferguson. Sara, a true Southern lady, was an inspiration to her family and friends in so many ways; and

Whereas, the most important of those ways was her faithfulness as a servant to Jesus Christ and her beloved church, St. John’s United Methodist. Sara served for more than seventy years in all facets of church ministry, including teaching the youth class for well over forty years; and

Whereas, Sara graduated from Batesburg‑Leesville High School in 1937 and Winthrop College in 1939. For more than seventy years, she worked with her late husband, Douglas N. Bruner, Sr., as editor and publisher of the *Twin‑City News*, becoming a familiar sight on the streets of the area as she sold advertisements and gathered information for her weekly column, “About the Twins,” which began in 1949; and

Whereas, Sara never met a stranger and always greeted new area residents with her vivacious personality and infectious smile. She saw her community and people through positive eyes, even in difficult circumstances. Her sense of humor, faith, and natural grace enabled her to view the glass as half full and not half empty, and her encouraging spirit was a blessing to those in need of a friendly face or an uplifting word; and

Whereas, she believed strongly in active community service and demonstrated that conviction through involvement in numerous civic and social clubs. For her many contributions, in 1990 Governor Carroll Campbell awarded her the Order of the Palmetto, the State of South Carolina’s highest civilian honor; and

Whereas, a member of the South Carolina Press Association, Sara was selected Outstanding Woman of the Year for the Women’s Division in 1953 and served the Press Association in various capacities, including as president of the Women’s Division and as a member of the board of directors and Hall of Fame Scholarship Fund Committee; and

Whereas, in addition, she was a member of the Batesburg‑Leesville Chamber of Commerce and Congaree Girl Scout Council Advisory Board. Among her many other recognitions, Sara received the coveted International Association of Lions Clubs Medal of Merit for outstanding community contributions, which was a first for a woman in 1997. She also served as president of the Ponderosa Women’s Golf Association and was a member of the Wednesday Bridge Club; and

Whereas, having been predeceased by her beloved husband, as well as by her son William Wentz Bruner and her daughter Rebecca Bruner Clark, Mrs. Bruner leaves to cherish her memory her son Douglas N. Bruner, Jr., her daughter Maner Bruner Thompson, seven grandchildren, four great‑grandchildren, and a host of other family members and friends. She will be greatly 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 death of Sara Ferguson Bruner of Batesburg‑Leesville and extend the deepest sympathy to her family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Douglas N. Bruner, Jr., for the family.

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