**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE UPON THE PASSING OF PASTOR BOBBY WATKINS 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 death of Pastor Bobby Watkins in May of 2013; and

Whereas, born in Cleveland County, North Carolina, he attended public schools in Boiling Springs, received the Lord as his personal Savior at the age of ten, and became a member of the Green Bethel Baptist Church in Boiling Springs; and

Whereas, Pastor Watkins served honorably in the United States Army as a psychological‑operation instructor and military police investigator; and

Whereas, he has served in law enforcement and as a detective in various sectors and levels including county, state, and federal positions dealing with narcotics, robbery, and felony suppression and apprehension; and

Whereas, Pastor Watkins earned an associate’s degree in business administration with a concentration in law enforcement administration from Midlands Technical College and a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from the University of South Carolina; and

Whereas, in 1978, he answered the call to preach and was licensed by the New Hope Baptist Church and ordained by the Gethsemane Association; and

Whereas, Pastor Watkins earned a bachelor of Christian ministry and a master of pastoral ministry and was awarded an honorary doctorate of Christian humanitarian service from Central Christian University; and

Whereas, by God’s grace, he established the Watkins Detective and Security Agency in Columbia in 1984, which successfully concentrated in indigent criminal defense and missing persons investigations; and

Whereas, at the time of his passing, Pastor Watkins had been ministering to the spiritual well‑being of the St. Paul Baptist Church congregation for almost twelve years; and

Whereas, he is survived by his loving family, including his dear wife Gloria Gilmore and two fine sons, Bobby G. Watkins II and Jonathan A. Watkins; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful for the life of Pastor Bobby Watkins, and his many years of devoted service and spiritual guidance that he gave to his church, his community, his State, and his nation. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, express their profound sorrow upon the passing of Pastor Bobby Watkins, and extend the deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.

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

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