**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE UPON THE PASSING OF JOHN WESLEY SCOTT OF BOWMAN 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 John Wesley Scott of Bowman on March 15, 2018, at the venerable age of seventy‑one; and

Whereas, born September 30, 1946, John Wesley Scott was the oldest of Wesley Scott, Jr., and Vertelle Benson Scott’s eight children. In time, he met and married Ethel Belinda Johnson Scott, God blessing their marriage with two daughters, Taini Jwaya and Abena Naya, and an adopted son, James Singletary; and

Whereas, in preparation for his career, Mr. Scott earned his bachelor’s degree at Allen University and his master’s degree in education at South Carolina State College. An art teacher in Dorchester School District Four for thirty‑four years and the first black to teach in the then‑segregated schools of St. George, he served for sixteen years before another art teacher was hired; and

Whereas, while teaching, Mr. Scott was president of the Dorchester Education Association and served on committees to select principals and teachers and to evaluate programs and teachers. For his outstanding work as an educator, he was twice selected Teacher of the Year. Many of his students and student teachers are now prominent artists within South Carolina and across this country; and

Whereas, Mr. Scott worked with many groups in the area, provided insight, and exhibited his artistic talent. At school, he sponsored and coordinated the prom for decades and headed twenty‑eight senior trips. As a working artist, John Wesley Scott painted murals in churches and homes around the State. He was vice president of the Everblooming Garden Club of Orangeburg and served for ten years as president of the Triangle Garden Council of South Carolina. He generously provided plants for co‑workers’ classrooms and often for sites throughout the school. Several of his students won art contests and other awards for their drawings of his plants; and

Whereas, believing strongly in active community involvement, Mr. Scott served on the committee that designed the logo for the Grits Festival and worked diligently to promote the inaugural event. He created signs for the cars and floats for almost every parade for more than thirty years. Further, he contributed time and resources to assist the people of both St. George and Bowman. When Hurricane Hugo came through the area, he cut trees and removed debris from many yards. He passed out candles to those who needed light. He took care of many children in his home. He helped repair houses, donated food and clothing to families, gave yardwork to children to keep them off the streets, and donated his own funds to those in need; and

Whereas, after his retirement from the public school system, Mr. Scott worked as a wedding coordinator, photographer, cake designer and decorator, florist, and caterer. For many years, he designed and made wedding gowns and dresses. Through his businesses, he met many people and traveled to many states. As a man of faith, Mr. Scott was a member of Bethel AME Church in St. George, where he served on the Bethel AME Pastor’s Aide, Pulpit Aide, and Usher boards, the latter of which he served as president for fifteen years. He was also a member of the Bowman NAACP; and

Whereas, he leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife, Ethel Belinda Johnson Scott; his children, Taini Jwaya, Abena Naya, and James Singletary; his grandchildren, Kaiah Tertia Scott, Reagan Flemming, and Jayden Lamont Scott; and a host of other family members and friends. He will be greatly missed. 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 John Wesley Scott of Bowman and extend the deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mrs. Ethel Belinda Johnson Scott for the family.

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