**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE JOHN WALTER FIELDS OF OCONEE COUNTY, AND EXTEND THEIR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives were deeply saddened to learn of the death of the Honorable John Walter Fields of Oconee County at the age of seventy‑three on March 17, 2018; and

Whereas, John Fields was born in Florence on September 7, 1944, the son of Frances Hicks Fields and Craig Foch Fields, Sr.; and

Whereas, in the proud tradition of sons of the Palmetto State, Mr. Fields dutifully served his country in the United States Army, and during the Vietnam War he was awarded the Purple Heart for valor in the field; and

Whereas, following the war, Mr. Fields returned home and attended the University of South Carolina, where he received a bachelor’s degree in marketing in 1970 and a law degree in 1973; and

Whereas, John Fields was admitted to the South Carolina Bar after graduation and settled in Oconee County, where he embarked on a brilliant legal career that spanned nearly half a century. In his practice, Mr. Fields skillfully litigated countless civil, domestic, and criminal cases, and in later years focused on real estate, criminal defense, and business law matters; and

Whereas, a truly quintessential attorney, John Fields was honored by his profession with an invitation to join the prestigious American Board of Trial Advocates; and

Whereas, Mr. Fields possessed considerable leadership abilities and firmly adhered to a genuine belief in the importance of public service, which together greatly inured to the benefit of the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, he served the citizens of Oconee County first as a Seneca City judge from 1973 to 1976, and then as assistant solicitor for the Tenth Judicial Circuit from 1976 to 1980; and

Whereas, John Fields served the City of Seneca as city attorney from 1979 to 1986 and councilmember from 1992 to 1994. He was elected mayor of Seneca in 1994, and in that post helped achieve the revitalization of downtown Seneca, central to which were his successful efforts to transform the historic Ram Cat Alley district from a state of disrepair to a popular dining and shopping destination for residents and tourists; and

Whereas, Mr. Fields loved the University of South Carolina, and in addition to faithfully pulling for the Gamecocks through thick and thin, he tirelessly but cheerfully lent his abundant talents to his alma mater in many capacities. From 2005 to 2008, he sat as a distinguished member of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees and from 2001 to 2002 he served on the University’s board of visitors. Mr. Fields also served as a member of the MyCarolina Alumni Association’s Board of Governors, and at the time of his death he was enjoying a second tenure on the University’s board of visitors and also was sitting on the board of directors of the University of South Carolina Development Foundation; and

Whereas, a man of faith, Mr. Fields was a member of Seneca Presbyterian Church for many years, and for the past fifteen years he was a faithful member of Bethel Presbyterian Church in Walhalla; and

Whereas, John Fields was dedicated to his beloved family, which included his wife, Donna Craig Fields; daughter Nina Hunter Fields Britt, who followed her father’s footsteps to pursue a career as an attorney, and son Joshua Hunter Fields; and stepchildren Sara Beckham Letson Tuttle and Townsend Craig Letson. He also was blessed with three adoring grandchildren, Parker Hunter Fields, Frances Hunter Fields, and James Hunter Britt, and two beautiful step‑granddaughters, Charlotte Love Tuttle and Abigail Drennan Tuttle; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the life and legacy of John Fields and for the example of service, generosity, and affability he set for all who knew him. 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 passing of the Honorable John Walter Fields of Oconee County, and extend their deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of John Walter Fields.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑