**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF MRS. GEARLDEAN HAMILTON “GEARLD” COOKE OF KERSHAW COUNTY, AND TO EXTEND THEIR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER LARGE AND LOVING FAMILY AND HER MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives were saddened to learn of the death of Mrs. Gearldean Hamilton “Gearld” Cooke at the age of sixty‑five on March 7, 2018; and

Whereas, born in Georgetown on February 25, 1953, she was the daughter of Mrs. Rose Hamilton and the late Reverend Willie J. Hamilton, Sr. She attended public schools in Georgetown County and graduated from Howard High School; and

Whereas, while attending Palmer College in Charleston, Gearld Hamilton met the love of her life, Herbert C. Cooke, Jr., who would remain her favorite basketball star and beloved husband for the rest of her life. After they married, the Cookes moved to Camden in 1975; and

Whereas, they moved to Dillon, Montana, when Mr. Cooke earned a scholarship to attend college and play basketball there. Upon completion of his studies, they returned to Camden where they raised their family; and

Whereas, for twenty‑eight years, Mrs. Cooke was employed in the mailroom at the Department of Employment and Workforce, the last eight years of which she served as supervisor; and

Whereas, Mr. and Mrs. Cooke joined Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Camden, where she was a devoted and tithing member until her death. She also sang in the choir and served as a deaconess and usher; and

Whereas, Mrs. Cooke together with her husband reared three fine sons: Jermaine of Columbia; Teon of San Diego, California; and Bryan of Chesapeake, Virginia. Her sons and their loving wives blessed Mrs. Cooke with the affection of ten adoring grandchildren: Keona, Brandon, Tariq, Acqwon, Javionte, Kai, Noah, Shaw, Ayla, and Natalie; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the life and legacy of Gearld Cooke and for the example of grace, reason, and compassion she set for all who knew her. 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 Mrs. Gearldean Hamilton “Gearld” Cooke of Kershaw County and extend their deepest sympathy to her large and loving family and her many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Mrs. Gearldean Hamilton “Gearld” Cooke.

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