**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE UPON THE PASSING OF BISHOP JOHN HURST ADAMS, TO HONOR HIS REMARKABLE DEDICATION TO CIVIL RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND TO EXTEND THEIR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS LOVING FAMILY AND HIS MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate were saddened to learn of the death of Columbia native and nationwide religious and civil rights leader Bishop John Hurst Adams at the age of ninety on Wednesday, January 10, 2018; and

Whereas, a contemporary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Bishop John Hurst Adams was born on November 27, 1927, grew up in Columbia’s Waverly neighborhood, and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School. He studied at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, Boston University, Union Theological Seminary in New York City, and Harvard University; and

Whereas, before he returned to South Carolina in 1992 as a bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME), he pastored AME churches across the country, including Seattle’s First AME Church, the oldest in the state of Washington, in the 1960s, where he became one of Seattle’s foremost civil rights leaders; and

Whereas, Bishop Adams served as president of Paul Quinn College in Waco, Texas, and on the board of trustees for Allen University in Columbia. He also founded the Congress of National Black Churches, which coordinated black churches of all denominations from around the country; and

Whereas, his AME tenure in South Carolina ended in 2000, and he retired from the AME Church in 2004; and

Whereas, an ardent activist for justice and civil rights, Bishop Adams joined many demonstrations led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., including the famed Civil Rights March from Selma to Montgomery in Alabama. Within his home State, he fought for South Carolina to recognize King’s birthday as a state holiday and to remove the Confederate flag from the State House dome; and

Whereas, together with his beloved wife, Mrs. Dolly Desselle Adams, a social justice influencer in her own right, he reared three fine children who blessed their parents with eight adoring grandchildren; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful for the life and legacy of this distinguished son of South Carolina, Bishop John Hurst Adams, and for the example of service and determination he set for all who knew him. 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 Bishop John Hurst Adams, honor his remarkable dedication to civil rights and social justice, and extend their deepest sympathy to his loving family and his many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Bishop John Hurst Adams.

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