**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF PASTOR WILBERT CARL WILKS, OF HORRY COUNTY, AND TO EXTEND THE 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 Pastor Wilbert Carl Wilks, of Horry County, on January 7, 2009; and

Whereas, Wilbert C. Wilks, born in Horry County on July 15, 1945, to Kelly and Mary Elnetter Richardson Wilks, was educated in the public schools of Horry County. Upon graduating from high school, he began a career in the United States Army that lasted for more than thirty years and brought him the highest enlisted rank, command sergeant major. During his military service, he earned high honors such as the Vietnam Commendation Medal, Bronze Star for Valor (second award), Army Commendation Medal With 5 Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal (fifth award), Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry With Palm, National Defense Service Medal, and numerous other awards. He was also listed in the 1978 *Who*’*s Who in America*, and

Whereas, prior to retiring from the military, Wilbert C. Wilks earned a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies from Columbia College; after his military retirement, he answered the call to prison ministry. In preparation for this new work and in obedience to the scriptural injunction of II Timothy 2:15 to “rightly [divide] the word of truth,” he earned his bachelor of divinity from Morris College, followed by a master of divinity earned at the same institution while he served as pastor of Hill Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Duford. At Lee Correctional Institution, Pastor Wilks, Lee’s first chaplain, established the hospice program and Operation Behind Bars to help people once incarcerated transition more easily into a productive postprison life; and

Whereas, Pastor Wilks continued his studies in the Clinical Pastoral Education Program with the South Carolina Department of Corrections in Columbia, where he was appointed senior chaplain; and

Whereas, he served first as pastor of Mount Tabor Missionary Baptist Church in Evergreen, then of Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church in the Bishopville area prior to establishing Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, where he served until he departed to be with the Lord; and

Whereas, as further evidence of his committed involvement with his church’s community, Pastor Wilks was a volunteer with Bishopville Primary School’s reading and mentorship program; and

Whereas, affectionately called “Preacher” by all who knew him in his youth, he accepted Christ at an early age and carried out his divinely ordered calling to the ministry humbly and steadfastly, truly earning the Lord’s “well done, good and faithful servant”; and

Whereas, married to his loving wife and best friend Hattie P. Wilks, he shared with her forty years of happiness and contentment, the Lord blessing their union with three children; and

Whereas, in addition to his beloved wife, he leaves daughters Rona A. Wilks and Eunice D. Kelly and son Wilbert C. Wilks II. He also leaves six grandchildren, Cory, Adrian, Brian, Courtney, Bradley, and Ashley, as well as a host of other relatives and friends; and

Whereas, his memory will be cherished by all who knew him, and he will be greatly missed. 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 Pastor Wilbert Carl Wilks, of Horry County, and extend the deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mrs. Hattie P. Wilks for the family.

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