**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF JOHN “JAY’ WILLIAMS OF LEE 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 John “Jay” Williams, of Lee County, on June 1, 2009, at the venerable age of seventy‑one; and

Whereas, born in Lee County, on April 19, 1938, to Evelyn Bracey Peterson and Jonus Williams, he attended the Lee County Public Schools, later working for Suburban Propane Gas Company until his retirement in 1991 after more than twenty‑three years of service; and

Whereas, in addition to providing for his family, Jay enjoyed a lifelong love of music that included singing and playing lead guitar with the National Cloud of Joy for forty‑six years and working for thirty years as a gospel promoter for WAGS‑AM radio station in Bishopville, a job he began in 1979; and

Whereas, a devoted son of God and a man for all people, Jay Williams lived by the motto he embraced: “I’ll do all I can to help you, while keeping my promise”; and

Whereas, Mr. Williams was preceded in death by sons his parents; daughter Delores; step‑son Reggie Reddick; sisters Annie Bell Hinton, Shirley Williams, and Shirley Wilson; brothers Mack Bracey, David Williams, and Ernest Williams.

Whereas, he leaves his loving wife, Jeannie; daughters Cynthia Williams Hyman and Ashley Nicole Williams; step‑daughters Tifphane Hickmon and husband Israel, Latasha Rogers Spann and husband Errien; sons Al Williams and Kevin Williams; sisters Martha Simon, Mary Hinton, Janie Addison, Rachael Reed, Lucille Reed, Elizabeth Smiley, Vivian Williams, Lillian Vaught, Rosa Lee Williams, Elaine Williams, and Marjorie Sharon Lane; brothers Thomas Bracey, Willie Bracey, John Williams, Jr., and James Nelson Williams; four grandchildren; eight great‑grandchildren; a host of nieces and nephews; other relatives; and friends; and

Whereas, his memory will be cherished by all who knew him, and he and his music 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 John “Jay” Williams, of Lee 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. Jeannie Williams for the family.

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