**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPON THE PASSING OF WALLACE BYRD, OF RICHLAND COUNTY, AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Wallace Byrd, of Richland County, on January 15, 2009; and

Whereas, born June 5, 1922, in Edgefield, the second child of Ervin and Arlena Byrd, Mr. Byrd received his early religious and academic training primarily at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church and in the Edgefield County schools. Thus he was prepared for further studies at Bettis Academy in Trenton; and

Whereas, during his last year of high school, he was drafted into the United States Army, an event that interrupted his formal studies for more than four years. However, his experiences and travels in foreign countries and territories in Africa and Europe enhanced his knowledge and developed a yearning for other educational experiences; and

Whereas, after his tour of military duty, he enrolled in Patterson Barber College and received his barber license for the State of South Carolina. In addition, he furthered his education at Benedict College, earning a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and social studies. Later, he received his master’s degree in education from South Carolina State College and did further studies at the Sorbonne in Paris; the Université de Poitiers in La Rochelle, France; and the University of Georgia; and

Whereas, his selection as principal of Kelly Edwards School in Williston and White Hall Elementary School in Jenkinsville he held to be his greatest honors. Other appointments came to him from the Aiken public schools and A.L. Corbett in Wagner. Wallace Byrd retired after thirty-seven years of service as an educator; and

Whereas, believing a man should be involved in his community, he counted among his activities membership in the Retired Teachers Association of South Carolina, NAACP, Boy Scouts, Helping Hands, Alston Wilkes Society, and American Heart Association, as well as associate membership in NCNW; and

Whereas, he was also co‑chair of the AWB Community Foundation and trustee of St. John Baptist Church in Columbia, and he received a Living the Legacy award; and

Whereas, Wallace Byrd was joined in holy matrimony to the former Alma C. Weaver, who served with distinction from 1991 to 1999 as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives. Together, Wallace and Dr. Alma Byrd became active and faithful members of St. John Baptist Church in Columbia; and

Whereas, he leaves to cherish his memory a loving, devoted wife in Dr. Alma Byrd; a beloved brother, Eddie H. Byrd; and a host of other relatives and friends; and

Whereas, his loyalty and devotion to his family, his friends, and his State were admired by all who knew him, and he will be remembered with affection and gratitude for many years to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, express their profound sorrow upon the passing of Wallace Byrd, of Richland 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 Dr. Alma Byrd for the family.

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