**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPON THE PASSING OF OUR FORMER COLLEAGUE AND DEAR FRIEND, THE HONORABLE JUANITA CANARY WILLMON GOGGINS AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly were deeply saddened to learn of the death of the Honorable Juanita Canary Willmon Goggins at the venerable age of seventy‑five; and

Whereas, a trailblazer, Pendleton native Juanita Goggins set the stage through many of her achievements for African Americans and women to make dreams become realities. In 1974, four years after the first black men since Reconstruction were elected to the South Carolina Legislature, Mrs. Goggins became the first African‑American woman elected to the state’s general assembly. That same year, she was appointed to serve on the United States Civil Rights Commission, the first African‑American woman to be so honored; and

Whereas, the young Juanita began evidencing determination to excel at a very early age. She started speaking at public gatherings at the age of two, her mother encouraging her to learn Bible verses and short poems to recite at home, at church, and in the community. Her parents instilled in their precocious daughter Christian values, emphasized the importance of hard work, and taught her the reward of work well done; and

Whereas, in preparation for her life’s work, Mrs. Goggins graduated from the Anderson County Training School. At South Carolina State University, she earned a degree in home‑economics education, graduating in 1957. As a certified elementary school teacher, she served in the public schools of York, Chester, and Fairfield counties, continuing her education at the University of South Carolina and Winthrop University; and

Whereas, education became and remained a top priority for Mrs. Goggins. While in the state legislature, she authored the original South Carolina kindergarten legislation, which illustrated the urgency of early education, and the state’s entire early‑childhood education grew from her initiative; and

Whereas, additionally, during the six years she represented York County in the South Carolina Legislature, Mrs. Goggins used her influence to improve public health facilities in the state. She was responsible for creating sickle‑cell anemia testing in all the county health departments. She also served on the legislature’s Ways and Means Committee; and

Whereas, respected in high places, Mrs. Goggins was twice a guest of President Jimmy Carter at the White House. She was the first African‑American woman from South Carolina to be elected national committeewoman for a major political party and served on many boards and political committees that generate ideas and policies touching the lives of women and African Americans; and

Whereas, her political papers and other memorabilia are on file at the Winthrop University Archives, and the Smithsonian Institute houses a display of her achievements; and

Whereas, as an outstanding public servant and educator, Juanita Goggins received numerous awards and honors, including South Carolina State University’s Alumna of the Year award in 1975 and a National Spotlight Recognition at the university’s centennial celebration in 1996. She was listed in many publications, including Who’s Who in Politics in America; and

Whereas, she is survived by her husband, Dr. Horace Goggins; her son, Horace Goggins, Jr.; and a host of other relatives and friends. She will be greatly missed. Now, therefore,

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

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, express their profound sorrow upon the passing of our former colleague and dear friend, the Honorable Juanita Canary Willmon Goggins and extend the deepest sympathy to her family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of the Honorable Juanita Canary Willmon Goggins.

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