**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE SINCERE SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA UPON THE DEATH OF DOROTHY I. HEIGHT, AND TO HONOR HER MOST EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE CAUSE OF CIVIL RIGHTS IN OUR NATION.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives were saddened to learn of the passing of Dorothy I. Height on April 20, 2010, at the age of ninety‑eight; and

Whereas, born in Richmond, Virginia, on March 24, 1912, she grew up near Pittsburgh and became a founding leader in the American civil rights movement, crusading for over six decades to end racial and gender inequalities; and

Whereas, she was the valedictorian of her graduating class and the recipient of a one thousand dollar college scholarship when she won a national oratorical contest as a high school senior, but she was denied admittance to the college of her choice because of race; and

Whereas, after earning a degree from New York University in three years, she completed work on a master’s degree in educational psychology in the fourth year and became a welfare department caseworker for New York City; and

Whereas, she joined the staff of the Harlem YWCA in the late 1930s, became the chief of the Phyllis Wheatley YMCA in Washington in the 1940s, and remained on the national staff of that organization full time until 1975; and

Whereas, as a young woman, she participated in protests in Harlem in the 1930s and petitioned First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt for her support for the cause of civil rights in America in the 1940s; and

Whereas, in the 1950s and 1960s, she worked tirelessly for school desegregation, voting rights, employment opportunities, and access to public accommodations and appealed to President Eisenhower to take a more resolute position on desegregation; and

Whereas, she became the president of the National Council of Negro Women in 1957 and remained at its helm for forty years, initiating such projects as an education foundation for student activists who interrupted their education to participate in efforts to advance civil rights; and

Whereas, in 1994, President Clinton awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor, and in 2004, she received the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest decoration Congress can bestow; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the invaluable and lasting legacy that Dorothy I. Height has left on our great nation for the betterment of her fellow man. 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 sincere sorrow upon the death of Dorothy I. Height, and honor her most extraordinary life and accomplishments for the cause of civil rights in our nation.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Anthanette Height Aldridge.

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