**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF UNITED STATES AIR FORCE COLONEL ORION PAUL DAVIDSON CANANT (RETIRED) OF SUMMERVILLE, 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 United States Air Force Colonel Orion Paul Davidson Canant (Retired) of Summerville on May 29, 2010, at the venerable age of eighty‑eight; and

Whereas, born in Dallas, Texas, on December 28, 1921, Paul Canant was the son of Oscar Price Davidson and Zeta Nancy McDaniel. Showing early interest in the military, he graduated from Dallas High School as an ROTC cadet captain, infantry; and

Whereas, the young Paul enlisted in the Army Reserves as an aviation cadet in 1942 and was honorably discharged in 1944 to accept a commission in the United States Army Air Forces as a 2nd lieutenant. In 1946, he separated from active duty as a 1st lieutenant. He spent the following eighteen months flying DC‑3s as a contracted pilot, after which he re‑entered active service in the United States Air Force. Colonel Canant served his country honorably for over thirty‑one years, retiring in June 1974; and

Whereas, during the course of his military career, Colonel Canant flew more than eighteen different aircraft and served his country in three wars, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He served in various positions, including flight instructor; pilot to the commanding general HQ Far East AF, Japan; operations officer, Donaldson AFB; group assistant operations officer and wing training officer, Burtonwood AFS, UK; wing plans officer, Donaldson AFB and Hunter AFB, Georgia; and director of current operations, HQ MAC, Scott AFB, Illinois; and

Whereas, twice awarded the Legion of Merit, Colonel Canant served ten years in South Carolina, with two tours in Charleston, one as deputy director of operations, CAFB, and one as base commander, CAFB; and

Whereas, after retirement from the United States Air Force, he worked for Bosch Corporation for ten years, returning to the Charleston Air Force Base from 1989 to 1999 as director, Retiree Affairs Office, then from 1999 to 2000 as senior consultant, Retiree Affairs Office, Charleston, AFB; and

Whereas, on July 30, 1993, Colonel Canant was presented the Order of The Palmetto, the highest civic award in South Carolina. In addition, on March 19, 1999, Team Charleston, CAFB, dedicated the Heritage Air Park at Charleston Air Force Base in his honor. A marble monument with a brass plaque on top stands at the front of Heritage Air Park, with the following words: “Dedicated to Colonel Orion Paul Canant for Outstanding Service to the Nation, 1942‑1999”; and

Whereas, Colonel Canant also served on the Council of Military/Veterans Affairs Advisors to Congressman Henry Brown and played a vital role in the study to place the new veterans cemetery at Fort Jackson for the National Cemetery Expansion Act; and

Whereas, he was member of the Charleston Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Order of Daedalians, and the American Legion. Colonel Canant was the charter grand knight of the Knights of Columbus Council 6629; and

Whereas, predeceased by his beloved wife of fifty‑nine years, Anna Louise Canant, Colonel Canant married Bettina Davis Miller on July 26, 2003, and they began a new adventure together in Summerville; and

Whereas, Paul Canant leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Bettina; daughters Joyce Ann Canant Smith, Polly Louise Canant Burns, Janiece Canant Gordon, Pamela Jean Canant Chivers, and Jennifer Marie Canant White; two stepchildren, George William Miller III and Melanie Ann Miller Halpin; nine grandchildren; five stepgrandchildren; thirteen great‑grandchildren; and a host of other family members and friends. 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 United States Air Force Colonel Orion Paul Davidson Canant (Retired) of Summerville, 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. Bettina Canant for the family.

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