**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE UPON THE PASSING OF MAYOR ZELDA JOHNSON PELZER OF BOWMAN IN ORANGEBURG COUNTY, AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

Whereas, the members of the Senate were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Zelda Johnson Pelzer, Mayor of the Town of Bowman in Orangeburg County; and

Whereas, a lifelong resident of Bowman, she was the tenth of fourteen children born to the late Peter James and Wilhelmina Fair Johnson. She attended the former Bethune Memorial High School and graduated from Bowman High School. Zelda Pelzer continued her studies after high school, receiving degrees from the University of the District of Columbia in Washington, D.C., the Waverly School of Beauty Culture in Columbia, completed other studies at the University of South Carolina, and graduated from Claflin University; and

Whereas, holding the distinction of being Bowman’s first black female mayor, she was the first elected to the Bowman Town Council in 1993. She continued to be elected to the council until she ran for mayor in a special election in 2001 and was elected. She ran successfully for reelection in 2003 and 2007; and

Whereas, all who came in contact with her knew she loved her town by the many hours she would work each day trying to make the town as open and friendly as it could be; and

Whereas, every person was important to her. She thanked God for all he had bestowed on her, starting every meeting with prayer; and

Whereas, she was active in her church, Antioch Baptist, where she was a lifelong member; and

Whereas, Mrs. Pelzer had three children, Ezetta, Lamichael, and Joshua, and three grandchildren; and

Whereas, Mayor Pelzer will leave behind a legacy as a leader, worker, wife, mother, and grandmother who cared deeply about the quality of life in her town and who will be sorely missed by the people with whom she worked and whose lives she touched. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate express their profound sorrow upon the passing of Mayor Zelda Johnson Pelzer of Bowman in Orangeburg County, and extend their deepest sympathy to her friends and family.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to her husband, Jimmie Pelzer.

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