**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE DEATH OF MR. ELLIE HERBERT SUMTER OF SUMTER COUNTY 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 Mr. Ellie Herbert Sumter of Sumter County on November 28, 2011; and

Whereas, Ellie Herbert Sumter entered this world on June 6, 1931, the seventh of seventeen children born to Joe and Estelle Sumpter of Pineville. To many, he was known as “EH” or Ellie, but to his wife, Betty, he was Herbert; and

Whereas, a man of faith, the young Herbert gave his life to Christ at an early age and joined Day Dawn Baptist Church. After moving to Sumter, he became a member of First Baptist Missionary Church, where he served on the deacon board, finance committee, and hostess committee; and

Whereas, in preparation for his life’s work, he earned his bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Morris College and his master of education degree from the University of South Carolina, followed by further graduate studies; and

Whereas, during his college days, he was drafted into the United States Army, where he served for two years before he was honorably discharged; and

Whereas, Mr. Sumter taught mathematics at Roberts High School, Holly Hill, Bates Junior High, and McLaughlin Junior High. After thirty years in the teaching profession, he retired from Bates Middle School in May 1986; and

Whereas, Herbert had a love for young people and hoped that each would succeed. He initiated the first “5 day” after‑school tutoring program for students of all ages in the community at First Baptist Missionary Church. Later, he assisted Allen Chapel AME Church, New Birth Church of God in Christ, and the South Hope Center in setting up more neighborhood tutoring programs; and

Whereas, enthusiastic about his work, he recruited retired educators as well as college students to volunteer to work one‑on‑one with the students. Herbert and Betty tutored in their home those who could not attend the programs. Students ranged from second graders to adults working to obtain a GED; and

Whereas, as a civic‑minded individual, Herbert was very involved in the Sumter community, having membership with the Sumter County Economic Development Board (board member), Sumter County Planning Commission, South Hope Center, Aquatic Center, and the Sumter chapter of The First Tee. In addition, he assisted in organizing the Pinedale Neighborhood Association (first president) and was a charter member and treasurer of the Sumter County African American Cultural Society. For many years, he took income‑tax classes and volunteered to prepare individual federal and state income‑tax returns; and

Whereas, Herbert had many hobbies, fishing and watching sports being among his favorites. However, working on old automobiles was his passion. He enjoyed seeing them shine after a full day of washing and waxing; and

Whereas, Herbert leaves as his legacy his loving and devoted wife of fifty‑five years, Betty Prince Sumter; four children, Rosalind Nathaniel, Stephanie DuBose, Reginald Sumter, and Michael Sumter; five grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends. He will be 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 death of Mr. Ellie Herbert Sumter of Sumter 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 Mrs. Betty Sumter for the family.

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