**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, UPON THE PASSING OF JOSEPH DEER THOMAS, M. D., OF BAMBERG COUNTY, AND TO EXTEND THEIR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS LARGE AND LOVING FAMILY AND HIS MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives were saddened to learn of the death of Joseph Deer Thomas, M. D., at the age of eighty‑seven on January 11, 2012; and

Whereas, born in Fairfax on July 22, 1924, he was the son of the late Benjamin Franklin Thomas and Lilla Deer Thomas; and

Whereas, Dr. Thomas attended The Citadel and graduated from Yale University, and he received his medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina in 1948; and

Whereas, together with his beloved wife of almost sixty years, Betty Heriot Guess Thomas, he reared three fine children: Joseph Deer Thomas, Jr.; Heriot Thomas; and James St. Clair Thomas, who blessed them with eight adoring grandchildren and two great‑grandchildren; and

Whereas, he served his country with distinction in the United States Army during World War II and during the Korean Conflict; and

Whereas, dedicated to his community, he served both as a trustee and as an active staff member of the Bamberg County Hospital for many years; and

Whereas, he was a devoted member of Denmark’s First Baptist Church and served the church in many capacities; and

Whereas, in 1950, he began serving the medical needs of the Denmark community, where he remained faithfully for six decades, and he was honored by his fellow physicians and colleagues by being named the 1990 South Carolina Family Physician of the Year; and

Whereas, in 2000, Dr. Thomas was awarded The Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor given by the State of South Carolina; and

Whereas, making house calls was a regular part of Dr. Thomas’ practice throughout his years, and now his well‑worn black doctor’s bag will be remembered by many; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the life and legacy of Joseph Deer Thomas, M. D., and for the significant example of sacrifice and kindness he set for all who knew him. 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 Joseph Deer Thomas, M. D., of Bamberg County, and extend their deepest sympathy to his large and loving family and his many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the family of Joseph Deer Thomas, M.D.

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