**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE UPON THE PASSING OF BRUCE FRANKLIN DUKE, JR., OF WEST COLUMBIA, AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Bruce Franklin Duke, Jr., of West Columbia on January 13, 2013; and

Whereas, born November 24, 1953, in Tampa, Florida, Bruce Franklin Duke was the son of the late Bruce Franklin Duke, Sr., and Dr. Lois Duke Whitaker. In preparation for his career, which included service in the United States Marine Corp, the young Duke graduated from Lower Richland High School and the University of South Carolina; and

Whereas, Mr. Duke had a long state government career, most recently at the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation serving as administrator for the boards of Medical Examiners and Podiatry Examiners where his staff considered him not only a boss, but a friend, mentor, and leader. He will also be remembered for his prior service for many years as a devoted staffer for the Senate Finance Committee; and

Whereas, as a man who believed in committed involvement with his community, he was an Eagle Scout, and he participated as a part‑time umpire for youth baseball teams; and

Whereas, Bruce Duke’s love of baseball made him many friends and his passion for animals was apparent in his admiration for the good works of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; and

Whereas, known as a true friend, family man, and gentleman in every respect, he was also a man of faith, prepared for meeting his God. As a member of Shandon United Methodist Church, he served as a youth member. The words of Galatians 5:22‑23 exemplify the heart of Bruce Franklin Duke: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long‑suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance...”; and

Whereas, he leaves his family, which he loved, including his wife of eight years, Daphne Duke; his mother, Dr. Lois Duke Whitaker and step‑father, Dr. Andrew Whitaker; father‑in‑law, Barrie Ray Baker; son, Christopher Ray Werts; grandchild, Carly Jane Hentz; sister, Louanne Duke Friend; sister‑in‑law, Melanie Baker Heyward; two nephews and five nieces; and a host of other family members and friends. He will be greatly missed. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, express their profound sorrow upon the passing of Bruce Franklin Duke, Jr., of West Columbia, and extend the deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to his loving family.

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