**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE THOMAS NATHANIEL RHOAD, JR., OF BRANCHVILLE AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly were saddened to learn of the death of the Honorable Thomas Nathaniel Rhoad, Jr., of Branchville, on March 14, 2013, at the venerable age of eighty‑nine; and

Whereas, born July 16, 1923, in Bamberg County, Tom Rhoad, Jr., was the son of the late Thomas N. Rhoad, Sr., and the late Nena Walker Rhoad; and

Whereas, heeding the call of his country, the young Tom served in the United States Navy during World War II. This patriot claimed as one of the proudest accomplishments of his life serving as a torpedoman on the USS *Croatan*, an aircraft carrier in the North Atlantic; and

Whereas, a farmer and employee of the U.S. Postal Service by profession, Mr. Rhoad served as a Bamberg County councilman for two years. In addition, he served with distinction as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives for twenty‑three years, during which time he was majority whip and chairman of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee for many years; and

Whereas, many accolades were bestowed on Representative Rhoad for service to his State, church, community, family, and friends, such as the naming of the Thomas N. Rhoad Highway between Bamberg and Denmark in his honor; and

Whereas, his generosity and kindness often led him to contribute to worthy causes. He donated the land for the volunteer fire department and the expansion of Claflin Methodist Church. He was supportive of the Bamberg County Hospital and instrumental in bringing the Visiting Nurses Association and Bamberg Office of Aging to the county. As a lifelong supporter of the American Red Cross, he worked diligently to further its cause; and

Whereas, as a man of faith, he was a member of Edisto Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon and church treasurer for twenty‑seven years. He was also a Clemson IPTAY member for approximately sixty years and loved his Tigers, as well as the Atlanta Braves; and

Whereas, predeceased by one son, Thomas Nathaniel Rhoad III, Tom Rhoad leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Chessie Hutto Rhoad; two sons, Fred H. (Debbie) Rhoad and Roger W. (Sharon) Rhoad; one daughter, Kim R. (Randy) Berry; five grandchildren, Rusty Rhoad, Jr., Amanda E. Rhoad, Juliana B. Palyok, Randon R. Berry, and Paula A. Kirk; eight great‑grandchildren, Lindsey and Colton Rhoad, Layla and Leslee Strother, Julia Palyok, Natalie and Knox Berry, and Will Billbrough; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends. He will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, express their profound sorrow upon the passing of the Honorable Thomas Nathaniel Rhoad, Jr., of Branchville and extend the deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Mrs. Chessie Hutto Rhoad for the family.

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