**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF GOSPEL MUSIC LEGEND MELVIN CRISPELL OF CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, AND TO EXTEND THEIR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS LOVING FAMILY AND HIS MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives were saddened to learn of the death of legendary Gospel songwriter Melvin Crispell at Carolina Medical Center in Pineville, North Carolina, on May 29, 2014; and

Whereas, formerly from Brooklyn, New York, he had in recent years relocated to the Charlotte area, where he shared musically in ministry at The Life Center and then Freedom Temple in Rock Hill, blessing many with his music ministry; and

Whereas, widely known for his innovative and inexhaustible expertise on the organ, Melvin Crispell created such worshipful songs as “Jesus Is My Help” and “Wonderful Is Your Name” recorded by Hezekiah Walker and “Caught Up” and “He Took My Place” recorded by James Hall Worship & Praise; and

Whereas, his music, which influenced choirs and musicians across the country, will continue to ring out in celebration of his life and musical legacy; and

Whereas, affectionately nicknamed the “Professor” by other professional musicians, Melvin Crispell was more than a great musician. He was able to teach other accomplished and aspiring musical artists from his wealth of ability and talent; and

Whereas, with grace and humility unknown in celebrities of his stature, he shared his contagious smile, as well as his creativity and musical genius, with other musicians and composers, encouraging them to use their own gifts; and

Whereas, he and his beloved wife, Tunesha, have one fine son, Melvin Crispell III; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the joyful life and musical legacy of Melvin Crispell and for the example of humility 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 Gospel music legend Melvin Crispell of Charlotte, North Carolina, and extend their deepest sympathy to his loving family and his many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the family of Melvin Crispell.

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