**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE UPON THE DEATH OF MRS. ESSIE JOHNSON AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the Senate were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Mrs. Essie Johnson at the age of one hundred five years old; and

Whereas, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Isaac and Lena Bryant, Mrs. Johnson was born November 27, 1910 in Garnett, South Carolina. She was a member of Bethel Baptist Church until she relocated to Dorchester County and joined Greater St. Paul A.M.E. Church; and

Whereas, she married the late Mr. Jerome Simmons and they were blessed with eight children, four boys and four girls, one son who preceded her in death. She challenged her children to be the best that they could be, even though they would face challenges in life. She loved all of her children and had over one hundred grandchildren, including great grandchildren and great great grandchildren. She directed them in a loving, caring, and positive environment; and

Whereas, people in the neighborhood called Mrs. Johnson “Momma Essie”. She worked very hard to provide for her family by helping her husband work on the farm, picking cotton and tobacco, and gardening; and

Whereas, she was a proud, loving, happy woman and enjoyed being in the presence of people. She loved to laugh; and

Whereas, she later married Mr. Emanuel Johnson and joined Antioch Baptist Church in Bowman, South Carolina, where she served in the senior choir and worked faithfully in the church until the passing of her husband; and

Whereas, Mrs. Johnson diligently worked in the Greater St. Paul A.M.E. Church until she became ill. She loved God, her pastor, and her church family. She was loved by everyone she came into contact with; and

Whereas, Mrs. Johnson was named “Mother of the Church”. She loved working in the church, singing in the choir, missionary, and stewardess duties. She traveled to various churches singing in a gospel group with her relatives and friends. She loved to fish and cook for friends and family; and

Whereas, it was evident that God blessed Mrs. Essie Johnson beyond measure. She was a virtuous woman and faithful servant to everyone who crossed her path and was blessed to be able to live life to 105 years old. She will be greatly missed. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate, by this resolution, express the profound sorrow of the members of the South Carolina Senate upon the death of Mrs. Essie Johnson and extend the deepest sympathy to her family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the family of Mrs. Essie Johnson.

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