**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE UPON THE PASSING OF REVEREND WILLIE J. GOODWIN, JR., OF RICHLAND COUNTY AND TO EXTEND THEIR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS LARGE AND LOVING FAMILY AND HIS MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate were saddened to learn of the death of Reverend Willie J. Goodwin, Jr., at the age of eighty on May 28, 2016; and

Whereas, born in Columbia on March 2, 1936, he was the oldest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Willie J. Goodwin, Sr. He attended St. Martin Elementary Catholic School and graduated from Hopkins High School in 1954; and

Whereas, Mr. Goodwin joined Beulah Baptist Church in Congaree in 1957, and Mill Creek African Methodist Episcopal Church in Lykesland in 1962, where he sang in the choir and served as church secretary and as president of the Musical Choir for six years; and

Whereas, he accepted Christ as his Savior at Mill Creek, and while there, he coordinated a weekly Bible study group, served on the board of deacons from 1969 until his ordination in 1981, and served as vice president of Tom’s Creek Union through his Sunday school affiliation; and

Whereas, Pastor Goodwin graduated from The Seminary at Morris College School in Sumter; and

Whereas, Pastor Goodwin served as the interim pastor of the Jehovah Baptist Church in Columbia for one year, and in 1982, he became Senior Pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church in Pontiac; and

Whereas, Pastor Goodwin mentored, licensed, and ordained many preachers, served as the vice moderator of the Midlands Baptist Association, and led revival services around the Midlands; and

Whereas, after twenty eight years of faithful service to Oak Grove Baptist Church, he retired in 2010 and returned to New Light Beulah Baptist Church in Hopkins, where he was elected as interim pastor in 2011 and served for three years; and

Whereas, dedicated to his denomination and community, he served in the Progressive National Baptist Convention; the South Carolina Baptist Congress of Christian Education; Wateree Baptist Association; Gethsemane Baptist Association; the Blythewood, Lugoff, Elgin, Community Improvement Council; and the Interfaith Ministers Council; and

Whereas, he was a dedicated employee of Shandon Greenhouse; Colonial Foods, formerly known as Big Star; and G & P Trucking Company until his retirement; and

Whereas, together with his beloved wife, Rebecca Jacobs Goodwin, he reared six fine children: the late Willie J. Thompson, Sr.; Wayne Goodwin of Newark, Delaware; Barry Goodwin of Columbia; Janice Dinkins; and Wanda Herbert and Susan Goodwin of Hopkins. His children blessed him with the love of fourteen grandchildren, seven great‑grandchildren, and one great‑great‑grandchild; and

Whereas, a man of prayer who always put God and family first, Pastor Goodwin enjoyed watching Nascar racing, the Dallas Cowboys, and his afternoon shows from his favorite chair and having sole possession of the remote control; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful for the life and legacy of Pastor Goodwin and for the example of sacrifice and kindness he set for all who knew him. 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 Reverend Willie J. Goodwin, Jr., of Richland 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 presented to the family of Reverend Willie J. Goodwin, Jr.

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