**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF WILLIAM LAWRENCE RUCKER OF LANCASTER COUNTY, AND TO EXTEND THEIR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS LARGE AND LOVING FAMILY AND HIS MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives were genuinely saddened to learn of the death of William Lawrence Rucker on Sunday morning, February 7, 2016; and

Whereas, born in Charlotte, North Carolina, on November 11, 1971, he was the son of Ruby and Douglas Rucker, the fourth of their eight children, who also include Douglas, Patsy, Aaron, Ruby, Ellen, Carlton, and Ione; and

Whereas, William Rucker was reared in Lancaster and attended Lancaster High School, where he was an All Conference letterman on the football team and helped to lead the Lancaster Bruins to an Upper State Championship in 1989, wearing the number 50; and

Whereas, he attended South Carolina State University and Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina, and graduated in August 1995 from Gupton‑Jones College of Funeral Services in Decatur, Georgia; and

Whereas, Mr. Rucker was a third‑generation licensed mortician and served as a licensed bail bondsman; and

Whereas, the beloved husband of Daffney Cauthen Rucker, he was the proud father of two fine children, Layla Ellen Rucker and Aaron Ganson Rucker. Passionate about fishing, hunting, and spending time with his family, his favorite pastime was deep‑sea fishing with his father, his son, his brother Carlton, and his nephews; and

Whereas, with his nieces and nephews Mr. Rucker shared countless fond adventures, regularly imparting cherished memories of his childhood in the Rucker home and teaching them many lessons, from how to bait a fishing rod to how to skin a deer, all in the context of how to be a person of keen wisdom and compassion; and

Whereas, loved throughout his community by young and old alike, he was often an attentive caretaker for many sick individuals and frequently visited his loved ones in the area; and

Whereas, William Rucker enjoyed numerous close connections with members of the House of Representatives. His sister is married to former Representative Bakari Sellers; his first cousins include the Honorable John King and Todd Rutherford; and the late Honorable Bessy Moody‑Lawrence was his aunt. The Honorable Joe Neal ministers as the family’s pastor, and the Honorable Mandy Powers Norrell has been a close family friend since childhood; and

Whereas, his last moments were spent in pure joy in the company of family in San Francisco, California, while attending Super Bowl 50; and

Whereas, his home‑going celebration will be held at A. R. Rucker Middle School, the school that the Red Rose City of Lancaster named for his grandfather, whom he loved so dearly; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the life and legacy of William Rucker and for the example of sacrifice, kindness, joy, and caring he set for all who knew him. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, express their profound sorrow upon the passing of William Lawrence Rucker of Lancaster 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 William Lawrence Rucker.

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