**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF REVEREND WILLIE “BILL” PALMER OF SPARTANBURG 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 saddened to learn of the death of Reverend Willie “Bill” Palmer on Wednesday, February 3, 2016; and

Whereas, born on October 15, 1922, he was the only son of the late Annie Palmer of Union County and was reared by his loving grandparents, the late Sally and Richard Palmer; and

Whereas, in the patriotic devotion of sons of the Palmetto State, Bill Palmer served his country with distinction in the United States Navy during World War II and was honorably discharged in 1945 at the rank of steward’s mate first class in Long Beach, California; and

Whereas, he began preaching at an early age and was ordained to preach in January 1971. Reverend Palmer served as the pastor of Mountain View Baptist Church in Campobello for ten years and of New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Pacolet. He also served as the pastor of Lewis Chapel Baptist Church in Spartanburg for twenty‑three years, and under his leadership, Lewis Chapel was built; and

Whereas, he earned a barber’s license in 1976, and practicing his trade as a barber provided him time and opportunity to serve his community, and for his significant service to his community, he was honored with the keys to the City of Blacksburg by Mayor Gene Dixon in 1989; and

Whereas, Bill Palmer served as past Master Pride of Masonic Lodge #211 in Spartanburg, dedicating his time and talents to serving his community, district, and State through the organization; and

Whereas, as a carpenter, he built three houses from the ground up and helped to remodel Hardy Chapel Baptist Church. He retired from years of faithful service with Draper Corporation; and

Whereas, a man of many talents, Reverend Palmer taught himself to play the guitar and enjoyed performing with his singing quartet and providing musical pleasure to others. He was a devoted and cherished member of Hardy Chapel Baptist Church in Spartanburg; and

Whereas, together with his beloved wife, the late Ethelene M. Palmer, he reared six fine children: Sylvester Palmer, Alvin Ray Palmer, Douglas Edward Palmer, the late Mary Nell Jennings, the late Willie Lee Palmer, and the late Eugene Palmer. These children blessed him with the love of many grandchildren and great‑grandchildren; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the life and legacy of Bill Palmer and for the example of sacrifice and service 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 Reverend Willie “Bill” Palmer of Spartanburg 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 provided to the family of Reverend Willie “Bill” Palmer.

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