**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE DEATH OF WILLIAM PEEBLES BASKIN III OF BISHOPVILLE AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives were deeply saddened to learn of the death of William “Billy” Peebles Baskin III of Bishopville on October 12, 2015, at the venerable age of eighty; and

Whereas, born in 1934, this Bishopville native was a son of the Honorable William P. Baskin, Jr., a South Carolina state senator for twenty‑one years, and Margaret Pittman Baskin of Lee County. William P. Baskin III served as an attorney in Lee County for thirty‑seven years and as the municipal judge for the Town of Bishopville for thirty‑six years; and

Whereas, in preparation for his career, the young Billy Baskin graduated from Wofford College in 1957 and the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1960; and

Whereas, Billy Baskin believed strongly in personal involvement with his community, and his convictions led him to serve that community, as well as the broader community of South Carolina and beyond, in several capacities. He was assistant director of the Lee County E‑911 Communication Center for two years, as well as a 1961 charter member of the Bishopville Rescue Squad, which he served as major for thirty‑nine years. In addition, he served as a captain in the U.S. Army for six months’ active duty and in the Army Reserves for ten years. A man of faith and longtime member of Bethlehem United Methodist Church, he served his God there in various capacities; and

Whereas, moreover, he served as a member of the South Carolina EMS Advisory Board, Bishopville Jaycees, Peoples Bank Board of Directors, NBSC Bank Advisory Board, Robert E. Lee Academy Board, Bishopville Chamber of Commerce, South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, Foothills Trail Conference Board, and South Carolina Cotton Museum Board; and

Whereas, in recognition of his spirit of excellence and dedicated service to the people of South Carolina, Billy Baskin was granted various honors, among them the Bishopville Rescue Squad Service Award; the 1983 Darlington Race Way Service Award; and the 1990 Sertoma Service to Mankind Award. Also in 1983, the Bishopville City Council proclaimed Billy Baskin Day in his honor. Further, he was named 1992 Lee County Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year and received in 2002 the highest civilian award granted by the State of South Carolina, the Order of the Palmetto. The Billy Baskin Foothills Trail Volunteer of the Year Award was named in his honor, as well; and

Whereas, in his leisure time, he enjoyed boating and hiking, especially the Foothills Trail; Clemson football; socializing with his friends; and reading about, and documenting, the history of Lee County and his ancestry; and

Whereas, having been predeceased by his beloved wife, Betty Lowder Baskin, he leaves to cherish his memory a son, Eric Lowder Baskin (Caroline) of Irmo; a daughter, Kristan Baskin Stoneman (Dan) of Easley; four grandchildren, Ryan Baskin, Erica Baskin, Tyler Stoneman, and Avery Stoneman; and a host of other family members and friends. He will be greatly missed by those fortunate enough to have known 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 death of William Peebles Baskin III of Bishopville and extend the deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Eric Lowder Baskin for the family.

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