**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF JEROME STEPHENS “STEVE” BILTON OF DORCHESTER 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 Jerome Stephens “Steve” Bilton at the age of sixty‑four on April 25, 2016; and

Whereas, born in Holly Hill on February 10, 1952, he was a son of Lurene Helen Stephens Bilton and the late James “Jimmy” Woodrow Bilton, Sr.; and

Whereas, Steve Bilton graduated from St. George High School in 1970, and Spartanburg Methodist Junior College in 1972; and

Whereas, he was a fixture at Bilton Ford since he was a child, alongside his father Jimmy, who owned several Ford Dealerships. He and his father spent many wonderful years working together until Jimmy Bilton’s death in 2001; and

Whereas, Steve Bilton served as the former president of Jim Bilton Ford and recently retired as its CEO; and

Whereas, a faithful member of St. George United Methodist Church, he served the congregation as the past chairman of the Administrative Council and Stewardship Committee and was a member of the choir, the Serendipity Sunday school class, and Emmaus; and

Whereas, devoted to his community, Steve Bilton was a former board member of the South Carolina Jobs ‑ Economic Development Authority (JEDA), South Carolina Procurement Review Panel, and the St. George Planning Commission; and

Whereas, he and his wife of forty‑three years, Barbara Behling Bilton, reared two fine children, Marla Bilton‑Westbury of St. George, and Jared Stephens Bilton of Charleston. He was blessed with the love of four adoring grandchildren who called him “Da”: Clinton, Katey, Corinne, and Claudia; and

Whereas, in his spare time, Steve Bilton enjoyed fishing, boating, and gardening, but his fondest times were spent delighting in his family, and especially his grandchildren; and

Whereas, in addition to his beloved wife, children, and grandchildren, he leaves behind to cherish his memories his devoted mother, Lurene Stephens Bilton, and three brothers: J. Woodrow “Woody” Bilton, Jr.; Allen “Al” McKinley Bilton; and William David Bilton; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the life and legacy of Steve Bilton and for the example of dedication and service 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 Jerome Stephens “Steve” Bilton of Dorchester 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 Jerome Stephens “Steve” Bilton.

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