**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE UPON THE PASSING OF RUSSELL H. “RUSS” MEEKINS AND TO EXTEND THEIR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS LOVING FAMILY AND HIS MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate were saddened to learn of the death of Russ Meekins at the age of sixty‑three on December 23, 2017; and

Whereas, born in Conway on July 1, 1954, he was the son of Marilyn Johnson Meekins and the late Harold Meekins and was the first in his family to attend college, earning degrees in finance and accounting from the University of South Carolina; and

Whereas, Mr. Meekins continued his academic legacy by founding a scholarship named for his parents to enable others to attend college; and

Whereas, for twenty‑five years, he served as the chief financial officer of the University of South Carolina Foundations, which is comprised of the Educational Foundation and the Development Foundation, from 1997 to 2012, and as its executive director from 2013 until his death; and

Whereas, with a sincere commitment to the development and betterment of the University of South Carolina, the City of Columbia, and the State of South Carolina, Mr. Meekins was instrumental in the development of the Gamecock baseball stadium, the 650 Lincoln student housing development, the Inn at USC, and the Children’s Center at USC; and

Whereas, in the proud patriotic tradition of the sons of the Palmetto State, he served as a seaman in the United States Naval Reserves; and

Whereas, Mr. Meekins served with distinction on the board of directors of AllSouth Federal Credit Union for twenty‑five years, and in each of his roles, he inspired others and led with vision, values, humility, and warmth, mentoring others and giving back to the community he loved; and

Whereas, survived by his beloved wife of thirty‑six years, Joanna H. Meekins, he was the proud father of one son, Dr. Benjamin Meekins, and one daughter, Dr. Catherine Meekins Millender. They blessed him with the affection of two grandchildren, Fiona and Matthew; and

Whereas, also left to cherish his memory are his loving mother, Marilyn Johnson Meekins; his brother, Randy; his sister, Chris Worthy; his nephews and niece; and countless friends; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful for the life and legacy of Russ Meekins and for the example of service and benevolence 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 Russell H. “Russ” Meekins and extend their deepest sympathy to his loving family and his many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Russell H. “Russ” Meekins.

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