**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS PROFOUND SORROW UPON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE WILLIE RICHARD DAVIS OF ST. GEORGE AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the many friends and admirers of the Honorable Willie Richard Davis of St. George were saddened to learn of his death on July 26, 2018, at the age of sixty‑eight; and

Whereas, born July 11, 1950, in St. George, Willie Davis was a devoted family man who enjoyed the company of his loving wife, the former Joyce Washington of Orangeburg, and their two children; and

Whereas, a retired educator by profession, Mr. Davis was a member of Dorchester County Council (District 1), having served on that body since 1991, and was a past vice chairman. During his tenure as a councilman, he served on numerous boards and committees, such as Dorchester County Administrative & Intergovernmental Affairs (chair), Upper Dorchester Community Development Council (chair), and Lake Marion Regional Water Agency (commissioner); and

Whereas, in addition, he was a member of the Dorchester County Budget, Finance & Purchasing Committee; Planning, Development & Building Committee; NAACP (St. George Branch, president); Rural Transportation Management Authority; Dorchester Seniors, Inc., Board of Directors (ex‑officio); and Rosenwald School Board of Directors; and

Whereas, as a man of faith, Councilman Willie Richard Davis served his God as a committed member of St. Mark United Methodist Church in St. George. This respected churchman’s service to the Lord did not stop at the doors of his house of worship, but rather extended to service to his denomination. In working with the latter, he became a certified Lay Servant Instructor through the South Carolina United Methodist Conference, as well as a Forward Focus Leader; and

Whereas, in speaking of Councilman Davis, Dorchester County Administrator Jason Ward expressed the views of all who had the privilege of knowing Willie with this praise: “It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the people of Dorchester County alongside Councilman Willie Richard Davis. He was a gentleman, a servant leader, and a caring person who brought people together. He loved his family, and he loved this community. He was so proud to be from Dorchester County, and he worked tirelessly to make this community a better place”; and

Whereas, Dorchester County Councilman Davis Chinnis of District 2 added his own encomium: “Willie Davis was a giant of a man with a giant heart. We will miss his wisdom and calm demeanor on Council and in Dorchester County”; and

Whereas, Dorchester County Council Chairman Jay Byars offered this tribute: “There are some people in life that you wish you had known longer or that you could talk to just one more time. Willie Davis was just such a man. A natural teacher by calling, his smile and his wit were contagious. … Willie made a difference in his family, with our council, and in this world. We love you and Joyce, and we will miss your leadership, your heart, and your passion. [Willie,] you fought the good fight, you ran a good race, and you kept the faith. And God has welcomed you home”; and

Whereas, Councilman Willie Richard Davis, whose passion to serve was legendary, will be greatly missed and long remembered. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, express profound sorrow upon the passing of the Honorable Willie Richard Davis of St. George and extend the deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mrs. Joyce Davis for the family.

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