**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS PROFOUND SORROW UPON THE DEATH OF TONY STEPHENS AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, Walterboro native and Walterboro High School football and track standout Tony Stephens passed away on Monday, July 4, 2016, at the age of 51; and

Whereas, under the leadership of coach Gyles Hall, Stephens flourished on the football field, earning All-State honors and a spot on the 1982 Shrine Bowl roster. He was inducted to the Colleton County Hall of Fame in 2002; and

Whereas, Stephens is a Clemson Tiger defensive legend and played a critical defensive role in the Tiger’s back‑to‑back ACC Championships in 1986 and 1987; and

Whereas, after being moved to the middle of the defensive line, he recorded 61 tackles in 1987, including nine tackles for loss and was key to Clemson’s second in the nation rushing defense and fifth in the nation total defense; and

Whereas, along with being Clemson’s most improved player in 1986 and 1987, he earned All‑ACC honors in 1987 and was drafted in the third round of the NFL Draft by the New Orleans Saints; and

Whereas, beyond his athletic achievements, friends and former teammates will remember Stephens’ leadership and strong work ethic both on the field and in the classroom; and

Whereas, after earning a bachelors degree in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management from Clemson, Tony moved back to Walterboro and began serving his community as a Environmental Health Manager for the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control; and

Whereas, Tony was a member of Sandhill Baptist Church of Walterboro, where he dedicated his life to Christ. Tony continued to fellowship with God and his church family at the PruittHealth Center, where he resided due to his declining health; and

Whereas, he was united in holy matrimony to Cherly Stephens and they were blessed with three loving children. Tony centered his life around his family, sports, fishing, and the people whom he loved dearly. He will be deeply missed. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That, by this resolution, profound sorrow be expressed upon the death of Tony Stephens and the deepest sympathy be extended to his family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Cherly Stephens.

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