**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF DEACON LEON WRIGHT OF ESTILL 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 by the passing of Deacon Leon Wright of Estill on November 27, 2016, at the venerable age of eighty‑seven; and

Whereas, born July 27, 1929, this native of Estill was the son of Addison Wright, Sr., and Helen Griffith Kendrick. Deacon Wright received his early education from Hampton County schools and began working as a very young man. As a dedicated, hard‑working pillar of his community, he labored on the railroads but spent the majority of his career traveling across the United States as a professional truck driver for Southern Soya, from which he retired; and

Whereas, over the years, although he traveled much for work, he also opened many businesses that benefitted his community, including a laundromat, a barber shop, rental homes, and even a boxing club. Deacon Wright wanted to see his community, especially its youth, have as many options as possible so each community member could excel and succeed in life; and

Whereas, Deacon Wright was a lifelong member of Sweet Rose Baptist Church, where he served faithfully as chairman of the deacon board. He also was involved in several other Christian organizations and supported many ministries in the church he loved so much; and

Whereas, as the patriarch of his family, Deacon Wright enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and great‑grandchildren. He always looked forward to their many visits to Estill, especially during Thanksgiving, when all his family would gather for a weekend of food, fun, and fellowship; and

Whereas, Deacon Wright also loved visiting his friends, fishing, hunting, building houses (as a master craftsman), spending time with his livestock, taking pictures with others while he was sitting in his favorite chair, and watching his favorite show on television, *WWF Wrestling*; and

Whereas, in December 1949, Leon Wright wed Sadie Bell Farmer, God blessing their union with six children, Johnny, Janetha, Robbie (deceased), Helen Ann, Joyce, and Willie “Chuck” (deceased). The senior Wrights had celebrated thirty‑five years of marriage at the time of Sadie’s passing in January 1984. In June 1987, Leon wed Margaret Grant, and they were married for twenty‑three years until Margaret’s passing in September 2009; and

Whereas, Deacon Wright leaves to cherish his memory his children, Johnny Wright (Jacqueline) of Sycamore, Janetha Prioleau of Charleston, Helen Ann Young of Columbia, and Joyce Wright of Estill; his nine grandchildren; his fifteen great‑grandchildren; and a loving extended family. He will be missed. 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 passing of Deacon Leon Wright of Estill and extend the deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mr. Johnny Wright for the family.

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