**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO WELCOME THE NATIONAL FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND MORTICIANS ASSOCIATION TO MYRTLE BEACH FOR ITS 80TH NATIONAL CONVENTION AND EXPOSITION.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is delighted to welcome the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association (NFD&MA) to the Palmetto State for its 80th National Convention and Exposition from July 29 to August 3, 2017; and

Whereas, dedicated to promoting the common professional and business interests of its members, NFD&MA is a membership association of funeral directors, morticians, and embalmers; and

Whereas, NFD&MA fosters research, conducts workshops and seminars, investigates funeral practices, and develops and maintains standards of conduct that improve its members’ business conditions and uphold high standards of service to benefit the public; and

Whereas, the association also provides a continuing program of service of developing, disseminates information beneficial to members, and represents the common interests of its members before legislative, administrative, and judicial bodies; and

Whereas, NFD&MA was organized in 1924 by a group of licensed funeral directors as the Independent National Funeral Directors Association. Under the leadership of R. R. Reed, these funeral directors set out to maintain high professional standards to aid the public and their own business community; and

Whereas, in 1926, the name was changed to the Progressive National Funeral Directors Association, and in 1940, the National Colored Undertakers Association and those members still part of the Independent National Funeral Directors Association merged to become the National Negro Funeral Directors Association; and

Whereas, in 1949, Robert “Bob” Miller, a Chicago funeral home owner, was elected the first General Secretary of the association, and in 1957, its present name was adopted, the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association; and

Whereas, African‑American funeral directors have had significant involvement with historical events for centuries. In the 1800s, they furnished volunteers from the Free African Society to assist whites who were stricken with Yellow Fever during the epidemic; and

Whereas, in 1978, African-American funeral directors traveled to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware to recover the bodies of the victims of the Reverend Jim Jones Mass Casualty from Guyana. NFD&MA member and past national treasurer, Andrew W. Nix, Jr., of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, had the government contract and was charged with handling human remains of the 913 lives lost. The funeral directors who responded to the crisis helped to transport the bodies to African‑American funeral homes for burial; and

Whereas, Georgia’s state association of the NFD&MA, the Georgia Funeral Service Practitioners, assisted when over four hundred caskets were displaced from cemeteries throughout Albany, Georgia, during mass flooding in 1994; and

Whereas, Oklahoma’s state association of the NFD&MA, the State Embalmers and Funeral Directors Association of Oklahoma, coordinated efforts with others after the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the substantial contributions that NFD&MA has made to local communities across the nation and for the meaningful impact its members have on a daily basis in the lives of our citizens. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, welcomes the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association to Myrtle Beach for its 80th National Convention and Exposition.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association.

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