**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO REMEMBER AND CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF DR. JAMES “JIM” GEE OF SUMTER COUNTY, AND TO EXTEND THEIR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS LOVING FAMILY AND HIS MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives were saddened to learn of the death of Dr. James Gee at the age of seventy‑six on April 20, 2017; and

Whereas, born in Florence on September 3, 1940, James, affectionately known as Jim, was the son of Paul Hood Gee and Margaret Benjamin Gee. Jim attended McClenagan High School, and upon graduation, sought further education at Davidson College in North Carolina. He later went to Emory Medical School; and

Whereas, while in medical school, he met the lovely Winnie Bath. She stole his heart and they were soon married. They spent fifty‑five blissful years together and had three children, Paul Eugene Gee, Julia Muldrow, and James Daniel. They were further blessed with two cherished grandsons, Daniel and Patrick; and

Whereas, after serving two years in the military as a physician at Shaw Air Force Base, as was required of all medical graduates at the time, Jim became the first orthopedic surgeon in Sumter in 1972, when he opened Sumter Orthopedics; and

Whereas, Jim was well‑known in the community for his selflessness. Bill Price, a life‑long friend, remembers Jim as “a leader and inspirational person that others gravitated to. He had a strong faith in God and was a leader in his church and community.” Jim was a devoted member of First Presbyterian Church; and

Whereas, after leading a youth group mission trip to Mexico, he developed a passion for international missions and began serving on numerous trips to South America; and

Whereas, Jim was also an avid sports fan. He loved watching his children and grandchildren participating in sports and never missed an athletic event. He even served as a resident doctor at all the games. “He would go and when somebody got hurt, they would run over to him to let him treat it on the sideline,” described his wife; and

Whereas, after retiring as a surgeon, he worked several years as a physician at Tuomey Industrial Medicine in Sumter. This entity served as a clinic for local industry and the school system. When Sumter United Ministries opened its free medical clinic in 2014, Jim began to volunteer there as an orthopedician for knee, hip, and joint issues, as well as other ailments; and

Whereas, Sumter United Ministries Executive Director Mark Champagne remembers Jim as one of the most humble people he has ever met, saying that Jim would often leave family vacations to come back and treat a patient at the clinic. His love of God drove him to serve in whatever way he possibly could. He began each day saying, “Our greatest gift is God’s love, our greatest privilege is to share it with others”; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the life and legacy of Jim and for the example of sacrifice and kindness he set for all who knew him. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the House of Representatives of South Carolina, by this resolution, remember and celebrate the life of Dr. James Gee of Sumter County, and extend their deepest sympathy to his loving family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Dr. James “Jim” Gee.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑