**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO REMEMBER AND CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF FLETCHER DEW THOMPSON OF SPARTANBURG COUNTY, AND TO HONOR HIS REMARKABLE COMMITMENT TO HIS COMMUNITY AND HIS NATION.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives deem it altogether fitting and proper to pause in their deliberations to honor the legacy of Fletcher Dew Thompson; and

Whereas, Mr. Thompson of Spartanburg died on December 17, 2017, at the age of ninety‑six. Born in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, on August 11, 1921, he was the youngest child of the late Charles H. and Jennie Lee Thompson and the cherished husband of Ruth DeLoache Thompson; and

Whereas, in 1945, Mr. Thompson married the love of his life Ruth after meeting her at the Textile Industrial Institute (TII), now Spartanburg Methodist College, when they were students. Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Thompson maintained a lifelong commitment to the college, serving on the Board of Trustees for twelve years; and

Whereas, after graduation from TII in 1941, he went to work for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in Washington, D.C., as a fingerprint classifier, while he continued his college studies at George Washington University. In 1944, Mr. Thompson was appointed an FBI Special Agent and assigned to the Washington, D.C. field office. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps, then returned to the FBI in 1946, resuming a career that spanned thirty‑three years. He was assigned to offices in Cleveland and Toledo, Ohio (1949‑55); Savannah, Georgia (1955‑61); Washington, D.C. (1961‑69); Mobile, Alabama (1969‑70); and Omaha, Nebraska (1971‑73), where he was in charge of FBI operations throughout Nebraska and Iowa; and

Whereas, he also conducted inspections of FBI offices across the United States and abroad and served three tours of duty at FBI headquarters. There, in the 1960s, he supervised kidnapping, bank robbery, and other major criminal investigations. Immediately after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963, Special Agent Thompson was dispatched to Dallas, Texas, to prepare the first investigative report, which was a precursor to The Warren Commission Report. Mr. Thompson was appointed Assistant Director in 1973, heading the Identification Division, the Bureau’s largest division, and served in that position until he retired in 1975; and

Whereas, Mr. Thompson earned a law degree from the University of Toledo College of Law and was a member of the Bars of the District of Columbia, South Carolina, Virginia, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Following his retirement from the FBI, he returned to Spartanburg and began his private practice of law, becoming an early leader in the field of South Carolina adoption law and practice. Later joined by his son James Fletcher Thompson, he participated in the placement of generations of children with adoptive families. In recent years, Mr. Thompson remained a trusted mentor and distinguished presence in the courtroom, most notably on the joyous occasions of a hearing before the family court when he appeared as counsel for many families finalizing their adoption of a child; and

Whereas, in 1999, he was named an Honorary Member of the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys in recognition for individual accomplishments that bring distinction to the Academy. In the inaugural year of the award, Mr. Thompson was recognized in Washington, D.C., with the Angel in Adoption award from the U.S. Congressional Coalition on Adoption; and

Whereas, for more than forty years, Mr. Thompson was a member of the Spartanburg Lions Club, where he was a past president and “Lion of the Year,” and a member of Bethel United Methodist Church and its Loyalty Sunday School class; and

Whereas, in addition to his wife Ruth, he is survived by their four beloved children and nine grandchildren: Jennie Lee Thompson, her husband Robert Levy, and their daughter Ariel Levy; Rebecca Lynn Thompson, her husband William H. Brent, and their children James and Caroline Ruth Brent; Laurie Thompson Williams, her husband Joshua Williams, and their children Rachel, Jennie, and Noah Williams; and James Fletcher Thompson, his wife Mia Hodge Thompson, and their daughters West, Julia, and Kempson Thompson; and

Whereas, Mr. Thompson, through his works and life, left an indelible mark on those who knew him and will be missed by many. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, remember and celebrate the life of Fletcher Dew Thompson of Spartanburg County, and honor his remarkable commitment to his community and his nation.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mrs. Ruth DeLoache Thompson.

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