**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 53‑3‑240 SO AS TO DESIGNATE THE TWENTY‑FIRST DAY OF OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR AS “DR. RONALD MCNAIR DAY” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, born in Lake City on October 21, 1950, Ronald McNair was reared in a low‑income family but was undaunted by any hurdles he encountered. Determined to excel in academia and life, he graduated from Carver High School in 1967 as valedictorian, and in 1971 he earned a bachelor’s degree in physics, magna cum laude, from North Carolina A & T University; and

Whereas, Ronald McNair completed a doctorate in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1976, and later achieved national recognition for his work in laser physics; and

Whereas, after being selected by NASA as one of only thirty‑five from a pool of ten thousand applicants, in 1984 Dr. McNair became the second African American selected to make a flight into space when he was assigned to be a mission specialist on the space shuttle Challenger; and

Whereas, he was a member of the Challenger crew on the fateful day of January 28, 1986, when the space shuttle exploded shortly after liftoff from the Kennedy Space Center; and

Whereas, the recipient of a number of honorary doctorates, fellowships, and commendations, Dr. McNair exemplified excellence in his thirty‑six years; and

Whereas, a dedicated husband and the father of two children, Reginald Ervin and Joy Cheray, he found the time to earn a sixth‑degree black belt in karate and become an accomplished saxophonist. Now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Chapter 3, Title 53 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 53‑3‑240. The twenty‑first day of October of each year is designated as ‘Dr. Ronald McNair Day’ in South Carolina.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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