**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO REMEMBER AND CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF DR. CATHERINE MCKEE MCCOTTRY OF CHARLESTON COUNTY, TO HONOR HER REMARKABLE COMMITMENT TO THE FIELD OF MEDICINE, AND TO EXTEND DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER LOVING FAMILY AND HER MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives was saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Catherine McKee McCottry at the age of ninety‑eight on February 6, 2018; and

Whereas, born in Charlotte, North Carolina, on February 3, 1920, Catherine McKee was the daughter of John and Violet Miller McKee, and she was educated at Barber Scotia Junior College in Concord, North Carolina. In 1941, she earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, and in 2006, her alma mater awarded her an honorary doctorate; and

Whereas, she earned a medical degree from Howard University School of Medicine in Washington, D. C., in 1945, and she completed her residencies at Harlem Hospital in New York City, Good Samaritan Hospital in Charlotte, and Providence Hospital in Chicago, Illinois; and

Whereas, upon completion of her residencies, Dr. McCottry returned to Charlotte, the first African‑American physician in the area. She moved to Charleston in 1952 to join her husband, Dr. Turner McCottry, and the two became the first African‑American medical team practicing as husband and wife in the State. Together they reared two fine children, Tammy and Charles, who blessed their parents with the affection of five grandchildren: Catherine, Taylor, Shemar, Mya Jo, and Jordan; and

Whereas, recognized as an outstanding surgeon, she was the first female African‑American obstetrician‑gynecologist in the Charleston area, and in the late 1960s, she was the first African‑American to desegregate Charleston hospitals. Responsible for the birth of some one thousand children during her practice, Dr. Catherine McCottry mentored many aspiring physicians and published articles in medical journals; and

Whereas, she dedicated more than forty years to providing her community with education on health matters through Gamma Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority’s Health Committee, and she initiated a countywide hypertension program to educate 15‑23 year olds on the nature of the disease; and

Whereas, Dr. McCottry developed a program to provide counseling in prenatal care to pregnant teenagers, and she worked with the American Cancer Society in fundraising, sponsoring clinics, and presenting symposia on cancer awareness; and

Whereas, among her impressive medical and community honors, she was inducted into the South Carolina Hall of Fame; was included among the Bellsouth African‑American calendar notables; received the Medical Alumnae Award from Howard University for fifty years of dedicated service and the Palmetto Medical, Dental, and Pharmaceutical Association of South Carolina’s Service Award; and won the Women Make a Difference Award, with letters of commendation from President William J. Clinton, Senator Ernest Hollings, Senator Strom Thurmond, and Congressman James Clyburn; and

Whereas, Dr. McCottry was a devoted member of Zion‑Olivet Presbyterian Church, and she served as vice president of the Washington Club Garden Club and a past board member of the Franklin C. Fetter Health Center; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the life and legacy of Dr. Catherine McCottry and for the example of leadership and service she set for all who knew her. 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 Dr. Catherine McKee McCottry of Charleston County, honor her remarkable commitment to the field of medicine, and extend their deepest sympathy to her loving family and her many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Dr. Catherine McKee McCottry.

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