**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF DR. SELDEN KENNEDY SMITH OF COLUMBIA, TO HONOR DR. SMITH FOR HIS PROFOUND IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY AND BEYOND AS THE FATHER OF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA, AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives were deeply saddened by the passing of Selden Kennedy Smith of Columbia on February 12, 2018, at the venerable age of eighty‑eight; and

Whereas, Selden Smith was born on January 17, 1930, in York, the son of the Reverend Nat Erskine and Jean Kennedy Smith. He graduated from Erskine College in 1951, and after Officer Candidate School, served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He remained in the reserves until 1979, retiring as a captain; and

Whereas, after active duty, he earned his doctoral degree in history at the University of South Carolina. He was a professor at Columbia College for thirty‑seven years, during which he chaired the Department of History and Political Science for several years. In 2014, he was honored with the foundation of a scholarship at Columbia College, the Selden K. Smith Endowed Scholarship for Student Global Experience, which offers students the chance to learn through travel and study abroad; and

Whereas, Dr. Smith is credited as the “father” of Holocaust education in South Carolina, and was the light that led Columbia Holocaust survivors in the 1970s, giving them a platform to tell their stories and open their eyes to how much good it would do to speak to churches, schools, colleges, and organizations; and

Whereas, he helped identify the founding members of the South Carolina Council on the Holocaust, which the General Assembly formed in 1989. He served on the council since its creation and as chair emeritus when he no longer served officially. His effort to assure remembrance of the Holocaust continued until the weekend of his death, having already made plans to light a candle on Yom Hashoah this spring; and

Whereas, the Selden K. Smith Foundation for Holocaust Education was formed in May 2010, to strengthen the Council’s activities in memory, history, and education, and it carries his name due to his special interest in teaching the Holocaust which, over the course of more than three decades, brought him into contact with many survivors and liberators in the State. For many years, he held summer workshops where he educated teachers about the Holocaust and how to teach students about these atrocities; and

Whereas, Dr. Smith devoted much of his life to justice, tolerance, and combatting hatred, and he was outspoken about what was and is happening in our society with intolerance, bigotry, anti‑Semitism, and racism. He received the Order of the Palmetto, the Columbia College Medallion, and other awards for his contributions to community, education, ecumenical engagement, and justice; and

Whereas, Dr. Smith is survived by his wife of more than fifty‑five years, Dorothy Gasque Smith, whom he cherished; four children who brought him much pride and joy: Jean Margaret Card (Skip), Julia Smith McLeod (Phil), Selden Kennedy Smith, Jr., (Ann), and Thomas Gasque Smith (Ellie); nine grandchildren over whom he doted: Joseph Selden, Russell Thomas, Kennedy Louise, and Laura Rempey McLeod; Julia Loyd Card; Patrick Pfiester and Gibson Kennedy Smith; and Perry Elton and William Thomas (Whit) Smith; and a host of other relatives and friends. He will be greatly missed. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, express their sorrow upon the passing of Dr. Selden Kennedy Smith of Columbia, honor Dr. Smith for his profound impact on the community and beyond as the father of Holocaust education in South Carolina, and extend their deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the family of Selden Kennedy Smith and to the South Carolina Council on the Holocaust.

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