**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE UPON THE PASSING OF DR. LUNS C. RICHARDSON, AND TO EXTEND THEIR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Luns C. Richardson on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at the age of eighty-nine; and

Whereas, a native of Hartsville, South Carolina, Dr. Luns C. Richardson graduated from Butler High School as valedictorian of his class. He went on to graduate magna cum laude from Benedict College and with a Master’s in Higher Education Administration from the Teachers College of Columbia University. He pursued additional studies at South Carolina State University, Rutgers University, and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; and

Whereas, Dr. Richardson’s distinctive career as an educator began at the South Carolina Area Trade School (now Denmark Technical College), where he served for fifteen years as Dean of Men, Chaplain, and teacher. From there, he served as Principal of St. Helena High School in Frogmore, Principal of Wilson High School in Florence, Coordinator of the College Achievement Project at Benedict College and Allen University jointly, Dean and Director of a number of programs and Acting President at Benedict College, and Vice President at Voorhees College; and

Whereas, in 1974, Dr. Richardson was elected ninth president of Morris College, serving for forty-three years and becoming the longest-sitting president in South Carolina. In his tenure at Morris College, Dr. Richardson brought greater academic recognition, distinction, enrollment, and financial support to the college through a number of improvements, including several accreditations; expansion of academic programs, with the addition of sixteen new majors and an Army ROTC Unit; new and renovated facilities; an increase in library holdings; liquidation of debt; faculty upgrading; and technological developments; and

Whereas, Dr. Richardson received innumerable honors and awards throughout his life, including the Order of the Palmetto and the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame. He received several honorary degrees from Morris College, Benedict College, Coker College, and Simmons Bible College in Louisville, Kentucky and was named Outstanding Alumnus by Benedict College and the Teachers College of Columbia University; and

Whereas, as a leader in the community and throughout the State, he served with and on many boards, commissions, and organizations, including the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce Board, the NAACP, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools’ Commission on Colleges Executive Council, and the United Negro College Fund Board of Directors; and

Whereas, Dr. Richardson also served as pastor of Thankful Baptist Church in Bamberg for fifty-six years; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate cherish the legacy of this son of South Carolina. He will be greatly missed. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, express their profound sorrow upon the passing of Dr. Luns C. Richardson, and extend their deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Dr. Luns C. Richardson.

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