**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE UPON THE PASSING OF DR. FRANKLIN G. MASON 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. Franklin Gasque Mason on Friday, January 11, 2019 at the venerable age of ninety-four; and

Whereas, a native of Mullins, Dr. Franklin G. Mason was born on November 20, 1924 to the late Dr. Edison Issac Mason and the late Mary McMillan Gasque Mason. He is an alumnus of Clemson University and the Emory University School of Dentistry; and

Whereas, a veteran of World War II, Dr. Mason served for three and one-half years as 1st Lt. with the Corps of Engineers and as a paratrooper for the 11th Airborne Division. After the war, he taught eighth and ninth grade math before pursuing dentistry. For sixty-five years, he served the Mullins community as a dentist; and

Whereas, a leader in his profession and his community, Dr. Mason was the first Eagle Scout in Mullins. He served in leadership roles with a number of local, state, and national dental organizations; with college and university boards and clubs, including Baptist College and Charleston Southern University; and with the local, district, state, and international Lions Club; and

Whereas, throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Mason received a number of honors and awards, including the Distinguished Dentist Citation from the Pierre Fauchard Academy, the South Carolina Dental Association Presidential Citation, an Honorary Doctor of Humanities from Charleston Southern University, the Lions Ambassador of Goodwill Award, and the South Carolina Lion of the Year. He is also in the state Lions Hall of Fame, and the state Lions Foundation’s highest award is named in his honor; and

Whereas, an active member of Mullins First Baptist Church for eighty-five years, Dr. Mason served as a deacon, Sunday school director and teacher, vacation Bible school director, chairman of deacons, chairman of the finance committee, and member of three major building committees. He went on thirty-five foreign mission trips to eight countries as a missionary dentist; and

Whereas, an avid runner for over thirty years, Dr. Mason was inducted into the South Carolina Runners Hall of Fame after completing over seven hundred forty races and holding numerous state records; and

Whereas, Dr. Mason was preceded in death by his wife, Lucy Farrow Reames Mason; daughter, Frances “Fran” Mason Hayes; and brother, Edison John Mason. He leaves to cherish his memory his children, Mary Mason King, Lucy Anne Ham Bridges, and Deby Mason Strickland (Allen); his grandchildren, Johbe King (Caroline), Mason King (Kellie), Mary Costa King Marsh (Chris), James Franklin King, Scott Ham (Chau), Matt Ham (Stephanie), Ben Ham, Sloan Ham Evans (Chris), Anna Strickland Isgett (Matt), Sydney Strickland Hooks (Jarrott), Courtney Hayes, and Keller Hayes Sutherland (Justin); fourteen great-grandchildren; a special friend and companion, Daphne Brady Capps; and a dear friend and colleague, Gayle Ham Hayes. He will be 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. Franklin G. Mason 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. Franklin G. Mason.

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