**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF THE REVEREND WILLIE E. GIVENS, JR., OF CHARLESTON 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 to learn of the passing of the Reverend Willie E. Givens, Jr., of Charleston on March 22, 2019; and

Whereas, a native of Charleston, Dr. Givens earned an A.A. in general education from Palmer College and a B.A. in religion from Charleston Southern University, both institutions being located in Charleston; a master of theology from Southern Bible Seminary in Birmingham, Alabama; and a doctor of divinity from Morris College in Sumter; and

Whereas, Dr. Givens was married to the late Juanita Harrison Givens, and together they raised four children; and

Whereas, he was vice president of the Charleston branch of the NAACP during the turbulent sixties. He was pastor emeritus of First Missionary Baptist Church in Summerville, past president of the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina, past moderator of the Charleston County Baptist Association, first vice president of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., a trusted advisor to former Governor Carroll Campbell, and member of former Governor Jim Hodges’ transition team; and

Whereas, in addition, in the past he had served as chairman of the Morris College Board of Trustees and as a member of the board of the National Bank of South Carolina, the advisory board of the First Steps State Educational Program, Benedict College Board of Trustees, the board of the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, and the board of directors of Santee Cooper; and

Whereas, preceded in death by his beloved wife, Juanita H. Givens, Dr. Givens leaves to cherish his memory his children, Edwin D. Givens (Karel), Darrell W. Givens, Sharon L. Givens, and Dexter A. Givens, as well as a host of other relatives and many 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 profound sorrow upon the passing of the Reverend Willie E. Givens, Jr., of Charleston and extend the deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Edwin Givens for the family.

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