**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS PROFOUND SORROW UPON THE PASSING OF DR. TONIA AIKEN TAYLOR OF MONCKS CORNER, TO CELEBRATE HER LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS, AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Tonia Aiken Taylor of Moncks Corner on August 29, 2019, at the age of fifty‑five; and

Whereas, the daughter of Frank Smith and Leola Aiken‑Byas, Dr. Taylor was born in Brooklyn, New York, on August 14, 1964; and

Whereas, raised in Moncks Corner, Dr. Taylor received her early education in the public schools of Berkeley County and graduated in 1982 from Berkeley High School. She furthered her education at Baptist College of Charleston, where, in 1986, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in communication arts with a minor in religion; and

Whereas, she later attended Jacksonville Theological Seminary and Truth Bible College and Seminary, and after much hard work, she earned both her master’s degree and doctorate degree in Christian psychology; and

Whereas, among her many pursuits, Dr. Taylor chose to serve on the board of directors and as an adjunct professor for Truth Bible College. She became the first African‑American woman to be elected as a Moncks Corner town councilwoman in 2009. She shared her passion to minister through musical expression when she provided music to broadcast networks in both Florida and South Carolina. She engaged her community when she acted as a motivational speaker to various churches, civic, and governmental organizations. She also shared her faith and joy with others as the co‑pastor of Heart to Heart International Ministries; and

Whereas, she was the wife of Bishop Jerome A. Taylor for over twenty‑seven years. The couple’s union blessed them with three beautiful daughters, Destiny Joy, Dynasty Sophia, and Divinity Victoria. She treasured the time that she was able to spend with both her husband and her children; and

Whereas, Dr. Taylor will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, express profound sorrow upon the passing of Dr. Tonia Aiken Taylor of Moncks Corner, celebrate her life and achievements, and extend the deepest sympathy to her family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Bishop Jerome A. Taylor for the family.

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