**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE DEEP SORROW AND LOSS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF RENA NICOLE GRANT, DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATION TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, AND TO HONOR HER REMARKABLE LEGACY TO THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, on February 23, 2020, the House of Representatives lost one of our own. In the quiet stillness of that Sunday morning, Rena Nicole Grant passed away at thirty-eight years of age. Gone too soon, it is with profound sadness that the members of the House of Representatives pause to reflect on her life and legacy; and

Whereas, born on May 25, 1981, she was the daughter of Laura J. Grant and the precious niece of Bestie Aunt Mary E. Sumter. Growing up in Hopkins, she attended the public schools of Richland County until her junior year when she attended and then later graduated from Hammond Academy; and

Whereas, Rena earned her bachelor’s degree in political science and history from Furman University preparing her for a career with the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee beginning in 2005; and

Whereas, she quickly distinguished herself as the feisty, tenacious, and oh so smart budget analyst proving to members and staff alike that good things really do come in small packages; and

Whereas, in 2010, she was appointed Director of Legislation for the Ways and Means Committee, the first African American to serve in this capacity, and faithfully served under chairmen Dan Cooper, Brian White, and Murrell Smith. In this role she really shined, leaving her mark on the laws of this State forever; and

Whereas, Rena battled sickle cell disease but never let her disease define her. Not a complainer by nature, she was more concerned about the struggles of others even though she regularly fought pain most of us cannot imagine; and

Whereas, Rena was a straight-shooter, told it like it was, and possessed a sharp wit. She managed a high level of professionalism while not taking herself or anyone else too seriously. She seemed to effortlessly endear herself to members and staff in the State House complex to such an extent that even the Governor knew of her loyal service to the State; and

Whereas, she cherished her mother and was deeply devoted to her extended family, considering her cousins to be her brothers and sisters, and her nieces and nephews as her own children; and

Whereas, the personification of kindness, compassion, and grace, Rena’s race was short but she ran it well. She educated us on sickle cell disease in life and in death and it is up to us to take up the fight and continue it in her name; and

Whereas, she loved her family and friends, her work, the institution of the House of Representatives, and her Ways and Means colleagues -- and what a gift it was to love her and be loved in return; and

Whereas, Rena’s State House family will grieve the loss of her daily presence in our lives, in the aisles of the House, and in the halls of the Blatt Building. We will miss her greatly but we will rejoice in a life well lived knowing that she is at peace, no longer in pain, and in the presence of her Redeemer; and

Whereas, the members and staff of the House wish to thank her mother, Laura, for sharing this truly special person with us for these many years. What a privilege it was. Her spirit and that beautiful smile will remain in our hearts until we see her again. 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 deep sorrow and loss upon the passing of Rena Nicole Grant, Director of Legislation to the House Ways and Means Committee, and honor her remarkable legacy to the State of South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Laura J. Grant for the family.

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