**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF JEANNIE ELIZABETH WYNNE BURKETT OF RICHLAND COUNTY AND TO EXTEND THEIR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER LARGE AND LOVING FAMILY AND HER MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives were sincerely saddened to learn of the death of Jeannie Elizabeth Wynne Burkett who passed away on March 15, 2020, after a brave ten‑year battle with cancer;

Whereas, born in Columbia on December 17, 1951, she was the daughter of the late Henry Wynne and Frankie Cannon Wynne and was reared in Cayce where she attended Brookland‑Cayce #2 Grammar School before her family moved to Irmo. By the time she entered the tenth grade, her family moved again to Springdale, and she graduated from Airport High School in 1970; and

Whereas, she earned a bachelor’s degree in art from Columbia College and received a South Carolina teacher certification both in May 1974; and

Whereas, she married her high school sweetheart, Donny Burkett and the couple moved to Florence where she taught in a Title I school, sharing her creative talent with disadvantaged students; and

Whereas, in 1976, they moved back to West Columbia where she taught for two years in Lexington School District 1 before they started a family; and

Whereas, she and Donny reared two fine children, Tiffany Burkett and Brandi Dixon. She was blessed with the affection of two adoring granddaughters, Charley and Riley Dixon. Her family was always her first priority, and creating an artistically beautiful and comfortable home for them gave her immense pleasure; and

Whereas, family and business trips across the United States and around the world gave her ample opportunities to satisfy her love of art, music, and all things beautiful, including the wonders found in art museums and ancient historic sites in Paris, Rome, London, and Venice. Fourteen years before her death, she visited Istanbul, Turkey and Greece, and fulfilled a lifelong dream of seeing the pyramids of Egypt; and

Whereas, for ten years prior to the diagnosis, Mrs. Burkett actively supported educational causes in the community. Along with other educators, parents, and community leaders, she helped to organize an educational foundation for Airport High School that raised money each year for student scholarships and teacher grants in order to improve educational opportunities for the school and community. Her dedication to the Airport High School Educational Foundation (AHSEF) earned her a place in the AHSEF Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame in 2017; and

Whereas, as an ardent advocate for ovarian‑cancer awareness and education, she served as a board member of the Ovarian Cancer Coalition of Central South Carolina and actively shared her story with many. She spoke on the steps of the State Capitol at an annual Butterfly Release event and talked personally with women who struggled with their own cancer, doing everything she could to raise awareness among women and their families about early detection and screening for ovarian and other related cancers; and

Whereas, a faithful member of Trinity Baptist Church in Cayce, Mrs. Burkett, along with her husband, was active in Mary Sharpe’s Sunday School Class. She counted her blessings every day and was overjoyed to feel well enough to relax with her family on the Isle of Palms and travel with her husband. Her faith in God only gained strength as she fought this battle; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the life and legacy of Jeannie Burkett and for the passionate service and boundless creativity she set for all who knew 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 their profound sorrow upon the passing of Jeannie Elizabeth Wynne Burkett of Richland County and extend their deepest sympathy to her large and loving family and her many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Jeannie Elizabeth Wynne Burkett.

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