**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF GINGER GILYARD BENJAMIN 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 saddened to learn of the death of Ginger Gilyard Benjamin at the age of seventy‑seven on Saturday, May 2, 2020; and

Whereas, born in Orangeburg on November 15, 1942, Mrs. Benjamin was the daughter of Lillie Mae Brown Gilyard and Alonzo Gilyard, Sr. Upon the family’s relocation to the State Park Community in Columbia in 1954, she attended the public schools of Richland County School District Two and graduated from Bethel‑Hanbury High School; and

Whereas, at an early age, she attended Zion Canaan Baptist Church, and later joined her husband at Zion Pilgrim Baptist Church, where she enjoyed singing in the Jubilee Choir; and

Whereas, Mrs. Benjamin attended Midlands Technical College and Denmark Technical College, and for twenty‑five years she faithfully served the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs at Midlands Center, retiring in 2009; and

Whereas, she served at the Woods Wonderland Child Care Center for five years, where the children affectionately called her “Miss Ginny”; and

Whereas, prior to her decline in health, Mrs. Benjamin loved to travel, and earned the nickname “Cruise Queen,” after traveling on forty‑four cruises; and

Whereas, together with her beloved husband of thirty‑six years, Ronald “Big Ben” Benjamin, assistant to the Sergeant at Arms for the South Carolina House of Representatives, she reared two devoted daughters, Yvonne Gilyard and Brenda Brady, and three fine sons: Kevin A. “Tony” Gilyard, Tracy B. Gilyard, and Anthony Benjamin; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the life and legacy of Ginger Benjamin and for the example of joy and kindness 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 Ginger Gilyard Benjamin 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 Ronald Benjamin for the family.

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