**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF THELMA BROOKS SALMOND 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 Thelma Brooks Salmond on Wednesday, April 29, 2020; and

Whereas, born in Blackville, she was the daughter of the late Sammie Brooks and Florrie Ray Brooks, and she earned an associate’s degree from Voorhees College and a bachelor’s degree from Benedict College. She completed additional studies at Temple University and the University of South Carolina and earned a master’s degree from South Carolina State University; and

Whereas, on her graduation day from Benedict College, May 25, 1954, she married her sweetheart from Benedict, Dr. Jasper Salmond; and

Whereas, Mrs. Salmond’s educational career spanning thirty years led her to teach at Kelly Edwards Elementary in Williston and E. E. Taylor Elementary School in Richland County School District One. She was recognized for her valuable teaching contributions as one of the district’s first Teacher of the Year honorees; and

Whereas, upon retiring from education, “Momma T,” as she was fondly called, became a small business owner and finally retired as a real estate agent; and

Whereas, Mrs. Salmond actively and passionately supported Benedict College, serving on the college’s Board of Trustees, as president of the National Alumni Association, and three terms as national co‑chair of the Annual Giving Campaign and sponsoring with her husband the Jasper and Thelma Salmond Endowed Scholarship Fund to provide assistance to a number of students; and

Whereas, active in Benedict College Columbia Alumni Club #2 and a life member of the Benedict College National Alumni Association, she founded and later was honored with the association’s Champion for Tiger Pride campaign, and she was awarded the association’s top honor, the Lula J. Gambrell Award; and

Whereas, Mrs. Salmond’s passion for the arts led her to become a charter board member of the Eboni Dance Theatre, serving as president for twelve years, and to serve on the board of the Columbia Music Festival Association, for which she received the Columbia Ministerial Association Award; and

Whereas, her diverse civic involvement included membership in the NAACP as a life member, Volunteers in Action with Palmetto Health, United Way of the Midlands, Columbia Palmetto Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction as a charter member, and Jack and Jill of America. She was honored with the March of Dimes African American Award and the Key to the City of Columbia, along with a proclamation naming October 25, 2010, as “Thelma Brooks Salmond Day”; and

Whereas, a life member, Pearl, of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Mrs. Salmond was active with the Gamma Nu Omega Chapter in Columbia. She was a twenty‑two‑year breast cancer survivor and the honorary spokesperson for STORY, Sisters Tell Others and Revive Yourself, a breast cancer support organization for African Americans; and

Whereas, a faithful member of First Calvary Baptist Church, Mrs. Salmond actively served in a variety of church ministries, including service on the Deacon Wives and Minister Spouses Board, and she was an inaugural member of the Madrigals Choir; and

Whereas, together with her beloved husband of over sixty‑five years, she reared two fine children, Reverend Jeryl Salmond and Jenita Salmond Belton. Her children blessed her with the affection of nine adoring grandchildren and twelve great‑grandchildren; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the life and legacy of Thelma Salmond and for the example of service and generosity 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 Thelma Brooks Salmond 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 Thelma Brooks Salmond.

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