**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF MARION TOWLES BURNSIDE, JR., OF COLUMBIA, TO CELEBRATE HIS LIFE, AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives were deeply saddened by the passing of Marion Towles Burnside, Jr., of Columbia, on January 10, 2021, at the venerable age of ninety‑one. This pioneering South Carolina conservationist was born to Marion Towles and Harriet Newman Burnside on February 22, 1929, in Columbia; and

Whereas, throughout his life, Mr. Burnside was engaged in several business ventures, including farming, real estate, automobile dealerships, and automotive parts sales. In addition, he devoted much of his life to the conservation of South Carolina’s natural resources. His commitment was instrumental to countless organizations dedicated to the same worthy cause, including the National Wild Turkey Federation, Plantation Managers’ Association, Southeastern Deer Study Group, South Carolina Sportsmen’s Coalition, Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, and Quail Unlimited; and

Whereas, further, his personal leadership was instrumental in the success of numerous conservation efforts, including whitetail deer and wild turkey restoration, waterfowl management, a variety of endangered species projects, support for our state’s fish hatcheries, and the statewide wood duck box project. His leadership was especially critical in the establishment of the ACE Basin, among the greatest conservation achievements in South Carolina’s history, to preserve for future generations one of the largest undeveloped estuaries along the Atlantic Coast. His volunteerism always mirrored his deep commitment to the environment while reflecting his understanding of the business sector and how a public/private partnership could enjoy unparalleled success; and

Whereas, Mr. Burnside, president of the Millaree Hunt Club, served eleven years on the state’s Department of Natural Resources Board (1988‑1999), seven of those years as chairman (later chairman emeritus). Previously, he had served over fifteen years on advisory boards of the former South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission, the Wildlife and Recreational Committee of the South Carolina Forestry Association, the South Carolina Land Procurement Utilization Committee, and Clemson University’s Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Wildlife Advisory Committee; and

Whereas, in recognition of his extraordinary public service, Marion Burnside received numerous honors, including the Columbia Ducks Unlimited Conservationist of the Year Award, American Institute for Public Service Jefferson Award, and Quality Deer Management Association Joe Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award. He also received an honorary doctorate from the University of South Carolina; the South Carolina Wildlife Federation Legend of Conservation Award; and the Order of the Palmetto, the state’s highest civilian award; and

Whereas, Mr. Burnside leaves to cherish his memory his wife of seventy years, Mary Blakely Hendricks “Blake” Burnside; his children, Marion T. “Burny” Burnside III, David B. Burnside, and Mary Grace Burnside; his five grandchildren; his nine great‑grandchildren; and a host of other family members and friends. With the passing of Marion Burnside, the Palmetto State has lost a humble, servant‑hearted man revered for his generosity and unwavering support of the natural world. He will be remembered as a beloved and respected South Carolina leader, one who will be greatly missed. 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 Marion Towles Burnside, Jr., of Columbia, celebrate his life, and extend the deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mrs. Blake Burnside for the family.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑