**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO REMEMBER AND CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF WILLIAM GEORGE “BILL” BESLEY OF RICHLAND COUNTY AND TO HONOR HIS REMARKABLE COMMITMENT TO HIS FAMILY, TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND TO LIFE.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives were saddened when they learned of the passing of William George “Bill” Besley at the age of fifty‑four on November 24, 2018; and

Whereas, born in College Park, Maryland, on April 14, 1964, he was the son of the late Dolores and Robert Besley and was reared in a loving home with three siblings: Barbara Bracey, Joan Revson, and Bob Besley; and

Whereas, the family moved to Columbia when Bill was in elementary school, and he graduated from Spring Valley High School in 1982. He earned a bachelor’s degree magna cum laude from Presbyterian College in 1986, where he was a two‑time Academic All‑American, All‑American in Tennis, and president of Kappa Alpha Fraternity; and

Whereas, in 1989, he earned a juris doctor degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law, and he practiced law in Columbia for twenty‑eight years. He was a founding partner and shareholder of Howser, Newman and Besley, LLC, with a principal focus in litigation defense; and

Whereas, serving in leadership roles in the South Carolina Defense Trial Attorneys Association, Mr. Besley was held in the highest regard by colleagues and clients and was named one of the top attorneys in South Carolina by South Carolina Super Lawyers each year from 2010 to 2018; and

Whereas, together with his beloved wife of twenty‑eight years, Sharon Plyler Besley, he reared two fine children, William George Besley, Jr., and Caroline Dolores Besley; and

Whereas, not only devoted to his family and his profession, Mr. Besley continued to enjoy tennis and play competitively throughout his life; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the life and legacy of Bill Besley and for the standard of excellence and kindness he set for all who knew him. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, remember and celebrate the life of William George “Bill” Besley of Richland County and honor his remarkable commitment to his family, to the legal profession, and to life.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of William George “Bill” Besley.

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