**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF ELIZABETH THERESA POWELL MCCROWEY OF ROCK HILL AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Elizabeth Theresa Powell McCrowey of Rock Hill on February 27, 2021, at the venerable age of eighty‑six; and

Whereas, born to Benjamin and Lucille Powell in New Orleans, Louisiana, Elizabeth Theresa Powell McCrowey entered this world on January 4, 1935. When she was two years old, her father died unexpectedly, prompting Lucille’s aunt, Selina Barnes, to step in to help raise Beth and her three siblings, Verna, June, and Benjamin. Together, the two women focused the children on school and church activities while emphasizing the value of loving and supporting each other. From an early age, Beth excelled at academics, the arts, and athletics. Her acceptance to a private Catholic high school, St. Mary’s Academy, further nurtured a lifelong love for, and relationship with, Christ; and

Whereas, upon graduating from high school, Elizabeth attended Xavier University in New Orleans, where she was a stellar student, majorette, cheerleader, homecoming queen, and Miss Xavier 1955. Most importantly, she met the love of her life, Frederick Gilbert McCrowey, affectionately called “Gibby,” and they married in New Orleans. After graduation, the couple built a home in New Orleans. Beth taught physical education at Southern University in New Orleans and enjoyed boating, swimming, and social activities with Gibby, an engineer and industrial arts instructor and later a draftsman at NASA and an entrepreneur. They began their family and were blessed with their first three children, Gil, Ann, and Scott; and

Whereas, in 1965, a year after Hurricane Betsy destroyed many homes in New Orleans, the family relocated to Rock Hill, Gibby’s hometown, where they again were blessed with a new baby, Michael. They became active in St. Mary Catholic Parish, historically rooted in the Black community where Gilbert’s parents were among the founding members. At St Mary’s, Beth was a long‑standing member of the church choir and numerous committees. She taught preschool and worked as an advocate for citizens with disabilities at the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs. Along with other church members, she started the daycare center at St. Mary’s and enjoyed volunteer work at the soup kitchen with her son Gil and at the Women’s Center, where she assisted abused women. Further, Beth was a member of AKA Sorority and lived out the precepts of service to others; and

Whereas, she lived life to the fullest as a wife, mother, sister, aunt, professional, and, most of all, as a loving child of the Most High God. She exemplified Christian values through evangelism, praise and worship, and love for all. Her happiest times were spent at family gatherings and numerous family reunions that included beaches from Hilton Head to Maui. Beth was graceful, generous, kind, and beautiful; and

Whereas, predeceased by her beloved husband, Gilbert, Beth leaves to cherish her memory her devoted children, Frederick Gilbert “Gil” McCrowey, Jr., Ann McCrowey Mickle (Robert), Scott Powell McCrowey, and Michael Gordon McCrowey (Kimberly); her grandchildren, Robert, Jordan, Grace, Nina, Jonathan, and Rebekah; a great‑grandson, Aiden; and a host of other family members and friends. She will be 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 Elizabeth Theresa Powell McCrowey of Rock Hill and extend the deepest sympathy to her family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Gil McCrowey for the family.

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