**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF JAMES PAUL “JIMMIE” ROGERS 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 to learn of the passing of James Paul “Jimmie” Rogers of Columbia on April 25, 2021, at the age of sixty‑nine; and

Whereas, born in Columbia on November 14, 1951, Jimmie Paul, as he was affectionately known as a child, was the second son of Elbert E. Rogers, Sr., and Harriett Sawyer Rogers and the nephew of Marian Baxter Paul; and

Whereas, young Jimmie graduated from AC Flora High School where he played saxophone in the band. He received his bachelor’s degree in political science from Fisk University and went on to earn his juris doctor from Howard University School of Law. It was there that he met and married the love of his life, Lynne Williamson Rogers; and

Whereas, upon graduation, Jimmie began his career as an assistant corporation counsel in Washington, D.C., prosecuting cases in the D.C. Superior Court. He later returned to Columbia, having accepted a position as one of the first law clerks to The Honorable Matthew J. Perry, Jr. Following his clerkship, he engaged in the practice of law with Johnson, Toal and Battiste and subsequently, the Richland County Public Defender’s Office, where he served as a Deputy Public Defender. Jimmie later went out on his own, where he ran his own law practice for fifteen years. While in private practice, he served the legal needs of the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy (CJA) and was appointed by Parks Small, Defender for the Office of Federal Public Defender, as the CJA representative for the District of South Carolina. Following private practice, he accepted a position as Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Columbia Office where he faithfully defended clients for seventeen years; and

Whereas, passionate about helping others, Jimmie was known to be a lawyer for all people, especially the indigent, and mentored many young lawyers throughout his legal career. In addition, he served on the Voorhees College Board of Trustees, the Columbia Bethlehem Community Center Board of Directors, and was a member of the SC Black Lawyers’ Association. Further, he served on many panels and was a featured speaker at retreats and conventions; and

Whereas, Jimmie Rogers leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife of almost forty‑one years, Lynne Williamson Rogers; along with his brother, Elbert E. Rogers, Jr., of New Paltz, New York; a devoted sister‑in‑law, Leslie Beaubian Williamson Martinez, of Silver Spring, Maryland; four devoted nephews that he loved dearly, Dr. Kenneth B. Rogers, of Toronto, Canada, Enrique Martinez, Julien Higgins, and great nephew, Elijah Martinez all of Silver Spring, Maryland and a host of other family members and friends. He 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 James Paul “Jimmie” Rogers 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. Lynne Williamson Rogers for the family.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑