**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF CARDELL BLANCHE SMITH DAVIS OF ANDREWS 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 Cardell Blanche Smith Davis of Andrews on June 14, 2021, at the venerable age of one hundred; and

Whereas, one of nine children, Cardell was born on August 30, 1920, to Benjamin and Josephine Smith in the Sampit community of Georgetown. She was educated in the public schools of Georgetown County and was a devoted member of St. Paul AME Church in Sampit, where she dedicated her life to Christ at an early age; and

Whereas, as an adult, Cardell spent decades farming and caring for others, including her grandmother, Sarah; her mother, Josephine; her niece, Daisy; and her nephews, Stuart and Mattie; and

Whereas, in 1958, she married Ross Davis and moved to the Earles community of Andrews, where she became a mother figure to six children. Her stepdaughter, Thelma, recalls Cardell’s homemaking artistry of making bedspreads, creating coffee, gardening, creating an ironless starched pants/shirts device, and raising multiple types of poultry; and

Whereas, after the unfortunate passing of her husband, Cardell made it her mission to raise their daughter, Beverly (Diane), in a loving home, despite many challenges. She and Diane worked in tobacco fields and picked cotton and cucumbers together. Most importantly, though, Cardell shared her faith in the Lord with her daughter, a legacy that is seen in her daughter’s ministry at Friendship St. Mary AME Church in the Annie Village community of Georgetown; and

Whereas, it was after her marriage that she joined Canaan AME Church (Trio), where she served as a stewardess, usher, and missionary. Those who knew her well also can recall her very early risings to tend to the animals and work in her extensive garden before the sun grew too hot. She made sure to grow plenty, as one of her many acts of love was to gift items from her garden to family, friends, and neighbors; and

Whereas, in addition to tending to her garden, she cared for children. No two have brighter memories than her granddaughters, Angelica (Letha) and Michelle. During their childhood, Granny was their caretaker as their parents worked during the day. She watched over them as infants and toddlers, and when they grew old enough for school, she was always waiting for Letha at the end of the driveway and Michelle at the door. The three shared special snacks like blackberry dumpling and homemade peanut brittle; and

Whereas, her evenings weren’t as eventful as her days, but they were well spent. You could frequently find Cardell baking a cake or pie or cooking and canning vegetables. She worked tirelessly her entire life in service to God, her family, friends, and the land. Her lessons on the value of hard work, selflessness, and keeping the peace live on in the hearts of her family; and

Whereas, preceded in death by her husband, Ross, Cardell Davis leaves to cherish her memory her loving daughter and son‑in‑law, the Reverend Beverly and Reverend Michael Burgess; her stepdaughter, Thelma Shoate; her stepson, Louie Davis; two granddaughters; three great‑grandchildren; 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 Cardell Blanche Smith Davis of Andrews and extend the deepest sympathy to her family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Reverend Beverly and Reverend Michael Burgess for the family.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑