**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON THE PASSING OF CHAPLAIN BILLIE LEE BRIGHT II 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 Chaplain Billie Lee Bright II of Columbia on September 12, 2021, after a long‑fought battle of COVID‑19; and

Whereas, born in Columbia, on November 2, 1974, Billie Bright was the son of Billie and Kathy Bright; and

Whereas, young Billie was educated at Saint Martin de Porres Catholic School, Saint Peters Catholic School, and in the public schools of Richland County. After graduating from Eau Claire High School in 1993, Billie heeded the call of his country and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps where he passionately served for five years; and

Whereas, upon his honorable discharge from the Marine Corps, Billie joined the Columbia‑Richland Fire Department in 1998, where he passionately worked until his retirement in July 2010. During his tenure with the CRFD, Billie rose through the ranks, serving as firefighter, senior firefighter, fire engineer, and fire captain; and

Whereas, after retiring from the fire department, Captain Bright felt God’s call to pursue ministry and was ordained on November 2, 2012. Building on his firm foundation of faith, he furthered his education, receiving his Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Christian Counseling from Liberty University and master’s degrees in Theological Studies in August 2014 and Pastoral Counseling in May 2016, from John W. Rawlings School of Divinity at Liberty University; and

Whereas, Billie loved to share God’s word with anyone who was willing to listen. His passion for helping others and his love for God led him to serve his Columbia‑Richland Fire Department family in the role of chaplain, providing comfort and counseling in the darkest moments; and

Whereas, volunteering his time and service to the community kept Billie very active. He served as a volunteer chaplain with Lexington Medical Center, as athletic director for the Columbia Bulldogs JUCO program, and as the chaplain for the Town of Irmo. He also volunteered with the Richland County Sheriff Department; and

Whereas, Billie leaves to cherish his memory his children, Billie (Audrey) Woodward of Sioux Falls, SD, Aerial Bright of Atlanta, GA, Donavon Bright of Denver, CO, Madison Bright of Greensboro, NC, Mason Bright of Irmo and Madelyn Bright of Irmo; his loving grandmother, Mary Parker of Columbia; his fiancé Pamela Gregg of Irmo; a loving village of aunts, uncles, and cousins; and a host of friends. He will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. 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 Chaplain Billie Lee Bright II 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 the family.

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