**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS PROFOUND SORROW UPON THE PASSING OF MRS. WILHELMENIA PERCELL GOLSTON, TO CELEBRATE HER LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS, AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Mrs. Wilhelmenia Percell Golston, affectionately known as “Billie,” on Saturday, January 23, 2021, at the venerable age of ninety‑one; and

Whereas, born in Calhoun County on August 23, 1929, Wilhelmenia was the daughter of the late Simon Henry Percell, Sr., and Amelia Fields Percell. Having received her early and high school education in Calhoun County Schools, she went on to receive further education at South Carolina State University. Her studies there, however, were not completed as she prioritized the needs of her family and left school in order to care for her younger siblings when her mother became very ill; and

Whereas, during the course of her life Mrs. Golston worked diligently as a seamstress until she retired from Columbia Uniforms Rental Company. Steadfast in her beliefs, she was a pioneer in the civil rights movement regarding workers’ rights and served as the union representative on her job. This position required her to travel to many places including Atlanta; and

Whereas, a woman of great devotion and faith, Wilhelmenia was a dedicated member of the Brookland Baptist Church in West Columbia for almost seventy years. Taking great joy and comfort in the Lord, she served nearly fifty years on the Jubilee Choir and for twenty‑five years as president. An active member of the Church Aid Club, she led for twenty years as president and was a committed worker in the soup kitchen ministry. A bright light and hard worker, she enjoyed her fellowship with other senior “seasoned” warriors at Brookland and cherished her twenty‑five years as an active member of the senior ministry where she also volunteered her time and expertise as president; and

Whereas, in addition to being committed to her church and her community, Wilhelmenia was greatly devoted to her wonderful family. Mrs. Golston married the late Theodore Roosevelt Golston on January 15, 1955. They experienced over sixty loving years of marriage together until his death in 2016; and

Whereas, preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her siblings CL Percell, Jesse Marion Percell, Clyde Percell, Simon Henry Percell, Jr., Frances, Robert Lee, and son‑in‑laws Charlie Butler, Sr., John Amaker, Sr., and Richard Stroman. Mrs. Wilhelmenia Percell Golston leaves to cherish her memory her children Rosemounda “Peggy” Percell Butler and Sharon Golston Stroman, as well as a host of other friends and family. She will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege and pleasure of knowing her. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, express profound sorrow upon the passing of Mrs. Wilhelmenia Percell Golston, celebrate her life and achievements, 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 family of Mrs. Wilhelmenia Percell Golston.

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