**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO REMEMBER THE OVER FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PERSONS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC IN THE UNITED STATES AND TO EXTEND DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE MILLIONS OF LOVING FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO MOURN THEIR LOSS.

Whereas, it is altogether fitting and proper for the members of the South Carolina Senate to pause in their deliberations to express their sorrow over the loss of more than a half million lives in the United States to the coronavirus, more than eight thousand of them in our beloved Palmetto State; and

Whereas, more than twenty‑eight million cases of the disease have been reported to the United States Center for Disease Control, with over a half million of the reported cases coming from South Carolina; and

Whereas, all the more tragic is that almost all of the people died painfully and alone in hospital beds, unable to be comforted by the love of family or friends in their last hours; and

Whereas, the more than five hundred thousand deaths attributed to the Coronavirus Pandemic in the United States surpasses the total of four hundred sixty‑six thousand two hundred ninety‑three deaths in World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War combined; and

Whereas, the number of deaths during the three waves of the Influenza Pandemic of 1918‑1919, also called the Spanish flu, was estimated to be at least fifty million worldwide with about six hundred seventy‑five thousand occurring in the United States; and

Whereas, in an address to the nation on February 22, 2021, President Joe Biden, noted that the coronavirus has not targeted people of a political party, religious persuasion, profession, race, or gender, but all Americans alike; and

Whereas, President Biden announced in his address that he had ordered flags on federal property to fly at half staff for five days in recognition of the tremendous loss of life in the United States; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is deeply saddened by the death of so many in our nation and our State, and the members express their profound sorrow upon this tragic loss. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, remember the over five hundred thousand persons who have lost their lives in the Coronavirus Pandemic in the United States and extend deepest sympathy to the millions of loving family members and friends who mourn their loss.

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