**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS PROFOUND SORROW UPON THE PASSING OF JOSIE GLENN GASTON, 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 passing of Josie Glenn Gaston on Thursday, January 27, 2022, at the venerable age of eighty‑five; and

Whereas, born on August 17, 1936, in Yalaha, Florida, Josie was the daughter of Ernest Wardell and Martha Boyd Glenn. The first of fourteen children, she had eleven brothers and two sisters. As a family, they valued their faith, their education, and a dedicated work ethic. They regularly attended Shiloh First Presbyterian Church, where, eventually, Josie Gaston served at every level, including as a member of various boards and committees, as the financial secretary, youth advisor, teacher, treasurer, organist, elder, clerk of session, moderator for Trinity Presbytery, and as commissioner to the General Assembly; and

Whereas, in her pursuit of education, she graduated from Camp Liberty High School and then attended Benedict College and the University of South Carolina, where she received a master’s degree in social work; and

Whereas, using the education that she received to serve others, Josie Gaston worked with the Department of Social Services for twenty‑three years, and as a supervisor of adult services for fifteen years. She was active in various community adult programs, one of which was selected as the best adult program in South Carolina by the South Carolina Department of Social Services; and

Whereas, unafraid to lead in the course of serving others, in 1986 she became the first African American female elected to serve on the Fairfield County School Board of Trustees. During her tenure, she served as the chairman of the Fairfield County School Board, as well as a member and state president of the South Carolina School Board Association; and

Whereas, she was supported through her life by the special family relationships that she cultivated around her. She was married to the late John Russell Gaston, Sr., until his passing in 2008, and together they had three sons, John Russell, Alexander, and Alvin. In addition to serving and guiding her community, she also had the privilege of watching and guiding her two grandsons and her great‑grandchildren over the years; and

Whereas, Josie Glenn Gaston leaves to cherish her memory her children, grandchildren, great‑grandchildren, her church family, the community she selflessly served, and a host of other family and friends. Her presence 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 Josie Glenn Gaston, 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 Josie Glenn Gaston.

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