**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS PROFOUND SORROW UPON THE PASSING OF DEPUTY FIRST CLASS AUSTIN DEREK ALDRIDGE, TO HONOR HIM FOR HIS SERVICE TO HIS COMMUNITY AND THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Deputy First Class Austin Derek Aldridge on Tuesday, June 21, 2022; and

Whereas, Deputy Aldridge was killed in the line of duty. He was shot while bravely responding to a domestic violence call in Spartanburg County; and

Whereas, according to the Spartanburg County Sheriff, Deputy Aldridge, a three-year veteran of the sheriff’s office, was ambushed as he approached a Chaffee Road residence; and

Whereas, a native of Greenville County, Deputy Aldridge was born on May 20, 1997. He attended Byrnes High School in ninth grade before transferring and graduating from Wren High School in 2016. He played football at both Byrnes and Wren; and

Whereas, an alumnus of North Greenville University, Deputy Aldridge went on to graduate from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy in 2019 and began his law enforcement career with the Spartanburg County Sheriff’s Office on April 8, 2019; and

Whereas, Deputy Aldridge married his loving wife, Jessica Link Aldridge, on September 14, 2019. She is expecting their first child in February of 2023; and

Whereas, a devout Christian, he was a member of First Baptist Lyman, where he served on the security team; and

Whereas, Deputy Aldridge treasured time with family and his abundance of dedicated friends. He enjoyed tabletop and video games, *The Lord of the Rings*, reading, and working out; and

Whereas, in addition to his wife and unborn child, Deputy Aldridge leaves to cherish his memory his mother, Deborah Spearman Aldridge of Simpsonville, and his father, Derek Alan Aldridge of Fountain Inn; his sister and brother-in-law, Stephanie Arntz Tenbrink and Victor Tenbrink and his nephews, James and Luke Tenbrink, all of Virginia Beach, Virginia; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Mark Wesley Link and Monica Kent Link of Spartanburg; and his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Hannah Link Lassiter and John Lassiter of Pensacola, Florida; and

Whereas, Deputy Aldridge was kindhearted, slow to anger, patient, genuine, witty, and loyal to his family, friends, and community. He will be greatly missed. 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 Deputy Aldridge, honor him for his service to his community and the State of South Carolina, 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 of Deputy Aldridge.

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