**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS PROFOUND SORROW UPON THE PASSING OF DEACON LINBERGH SUMTER, 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 Deacon Linbergh Sumter on January 7, 2021, at the venerable age of eighty‑six; and

Whereas, Deacon Linbergh Sumter, oldest son of the late Reverend William and Anetha Johnson Sumter, was born November 17, 1934. He received his education in the public schools of Hopkins, but left school during the seventh grade to pursue a trade to provide for his family following his father’s devastating injury while working at Fort Jackson and witnessing his mother’s mistreatment by welfare workers; and

Whereas, Lindbergh Sumter took on odd jobs as an apprentice to a brick mason, working in both South Carolina and Georgia. He became co‑owner of Reeves Sumter Construction Company in Columbia, supporting major work contracts, subcontracting with other companies, and building homes within the local community, and later, he owned Sumter Construction Company with his son, the late Charles Rico Sumter; and

Whereas, a hard worker, he instilled a strong work ethic in his family, introducing masonry to his brothers, his son, and other relatives, while also hiring people within the community that needed employment. He encouraged and financially supported education for his children, siblings, and other relatives; and

Whereas, he cared deeply about his community and always loved in deed, rather than word, repairing the homes for the elderly or needy, sharing food from his garden with the community, and financially assisting with basic needs and burial expenses for struggling families; and

Whereas, Linbergh Sumter courted and married the love of his life, Pansy Mae Reese. They shared sixty‑three marvelous years together and had four wonderful children, Anetha, Barbara, Beverly, and Charles. He also cherished his granddaughter, Ashley, and great‑granddaughter, Chandler Elizabeth. He served as the no‑nonsense patriarch of the Sumter family, preaching the belief that the family that prays together stays together; and

Whereas, baptized at an early age, Linbergh Sumter joined Mount Moriah Baptist Church, where he served faithfully in many capacities. He served in the deacons’ ministry at Mount Moriah Baptist Church for sixty‑five years, fifty of those years as chairman and later chairman emeritus. He also played an integral role by leading the church’s effort to add the fellowship hall as well as in the bricking of the former sanctuary’s exterior; and

Whereas, Mount Moriah honored Chairman Emeritus Lindbergh Sumter for his dedicated service to the church and the community, recognizing that he never took his role lightly and that he always exceeded expectations, including his leadership after the resignation of the church’s pastor, during which time he led the congregation through the process of identifying a replacement pastor, through prayers and following church bylaws, and coordinating with church officials, to ensure that Mount Moriah continued to move in the path ordained by God; and

Whereas, predeceased by his daughter Barbara Sumter and son, Charles Sumter, he leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife, Pansy Sumter; his daughters Anetha (Aaron) Jackson and Beverly Sumter; his granddaughter, Ashley Winn; and his great‑granddaughter, Chandler‑Elizabeth Winn. 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 profound sorrow upon the passing of Deacon Linbergh Sumter, 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.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑