**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ERECT A SIGN IN RICHLAND COUNTY ON THE CORNER OF GERVAIS STREET WHERE IT INTERSECTS WITH MCDUFFIE STREET IN THE CITY OF COLUMBIA’S LYONS STREET NEIGHBORHOOD CONTAINING THE WORDS “IN MEMORY OF MARVIN HELLER LONGTIME LYON STREET NEIGHBORHOOD PRESIDENT AND COMMUNITY ACTIVIST”.

Whereas, Marvin Anthony Heller was born October 18, 1956, to the late Harrison Heller, Jr., and Ruth Smalls Heller. He departed this life on March 25, 2020; and

Whereas, Mr. Heller was the third of four children all reared on McDuffie Avenue in the Lyon Street community in downtown Columbia; and

Whereas, Mr. Heller was baptized in the Catholic faith at St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church. Educated in the public schools of Richland County, he graduated from A.C. Flora High School, and continued his education at the University of South Carolina where he earned a bachelor’s degree in political science and pursued a master’s degree in public health administration; and

Whereas, a paint contractor by trade, a family legacy begun by his grandfather, Heller was employed by the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School where he enjoyed mentoring youth who showed an interest in painting. Mr. Heller also owned a painting and contracting business in which he employed the talents of his nephews and numerous cousins; and

Whereas, a strong community activist, Mr. Heller was president of the Lyons Street Community Association at the time of his death; and

Whereas, he was interested in issues that impacted his neighborhood as well as nearby communities. He served on the Richland County Sheriff’s Citizens Advisory Board, was a member of the City of Columbia’s Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development, and worked on such projects as the Gonzales Garden demolition, Millwood Avenue improvements, and Edgewood Library, to name a few; and

Whereas, a doting brother to his siblings and an affectionate uncle to their children, he was said to be a man who spoke his mind firmly and intelligently, debated energetically, and loved his family, friends, and community without measure; and

Whereas, it would be proper and fitting that the General Assembly pause to pay tribute to this native South Carolinian who gave tirelessly to his family and community by memorializing a corner in his beloved Lyons Street neighborhood in his honor. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly request the Department of Transportation erect a sign in Richland County on the corner of Gervais Street where it intersects with McDuffie Street in the City of Columbia’s Lyons Street neighborhood containing the words “In Memory of Marvin Heller Longtime Lyon Street Neighborhood President and Community Activist”.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Department of Transportation.

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