**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE HONORABLE RALPH KING ANDERSON, JR., UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM A DISTINGUISHED JUDICIAL CAREER IN SOUTH CAROLINA, TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AS A CIRCUIT JUDGE, APPEALS COURT JUDGE, AND RECENTLY AS A RETIRED/ACTIVE JUDGE FOR THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina House of Representatives honors those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to the welfare of this state’s citizenry; and

Whereas, the Honorable Ralph King Anderson, Jr., now on the eve of retirement from a long and distinguished judicial career, stands high among their number as an outstanding public benefactor, one much admired in his multifaceted role as judge, author, and speaker; and

Whereas, the son of Ralph King Anderson, Sr., and Macie Weaver Anderson of Timmonsville, Ralph King Anderson, Jr., was born on November 13, 1936. In preparation for his life’s work, he earned his bachelor’s degree at Clemson University and received his law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law; and

Whereas, after completion of his law studies, he began practicing as a partner in the law firm of Yarborough, Parrott, and Anderson, a calling he followed from 1959 to 1979; and

Whereas, on August 31, 1957, he married Loretta Lynch of Pamplico, who unfortunately passed away in 2005. The couple raised two fine children, Debra Arlene and Ralph King III; and

Whereas, a love of people and a passion for politics led him to run for the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1972. In those days, running for office meant knocking on doors from one end of the county to the other, and Ralph King Anderson, Jr., enjoyed it all; and

Whereas, he won the seat and served for the next seven years, representing Florence County. He was involved in debates on a myriad of controversial issues from the death penalty to abortion, and he worked tirelessly to provide consumer protection for South Carolinians. As a result of his committed labors, in 1978 he was named Outstanding Legislator of the Year for South Carolina by the *Greenville News*; and

Whereas, in 1977, while he was a member of the House of Representatives, tragedy struck. His beloved wife, Loretta, a nurse, was doing some work on the family’s beach house in Cherry Grove when she fell from a ladder. She was paralyzed from the waist down. Three years later, as the family was still dealing with Loretta’s paralysis, tragedy struck again. Son Ralph III “Tripp”, just a week before he was slated to graduate from Francis Marion University with honors, suffered an accident that left him paralyzed from the neck down; and

Whereas, the Andersons faced these hardships, by God’s grace, with courage and determination. As Judge Anderson attests, so many lives were inspired by his wife and the way she rose above her disability. Following his mother’s example of perseverance in the face of adversity, Tripp graduated from college as scheduled and went on to earn his law degree. Today, he is the state’s chief judge of the Administrative Law Court, as his proud father will tell you; and

Whereas, in 1979, Ralph King Anderson, Jr., found himself back on the campaign trail, this time for one of six newly created at‑large circuit judgeships. He won a majority vote on the first ballot and took up his new duties as a circuit judge, a post he held until 1996; and

Whereas, while serving as a circuit judge, he was a member of the South Carolina Law Institute, an oversight group of judges, law professors, and lawyers chosen to review and update South Carolina law, and in 1993 Judge Anderson was the recipient of the South Carolina Trial Lawyers Association Portrait and Scholarship Fund; and

Whereas, in 1996, he was elected to the South Carolina Court of Appeals, a position he particularly relished taking on because he knew it would give him time to write. In addition to the many opinions he authored while on the court, he has written several books for the South Carolina Bar Association, and continues to speak at numerous legal conventions and seminars; and

Whereas, this talented and gifted jurist has not gone unappreciated by his home county. Judge Anderson is the honoree of the Florence County Bar’s Ralph King Anderson, Jr., Service Award, granted annually for outstanding service to the South Carolina Bar and the people of South Carolina; and

Whereas, believing a man should be actively involved in his community, Judge Anderson over the years has volunteered with many worthy organizations. He has served the South Carolina Baptist Convention as a member of the general board, Unity Baptist Church as chairman of the board of deacons, Bethea Baptist Home as a member of the board of trustees, Florence Baptist Association as moderator; Southside High School PTSA as president; and his county Democratic Party as chairman; and

Whereas, upon his retirement from the bench, a new season, that of full retirement, begins in the life of this dedicated son of South Carolina, and he has earned it many times over; and

Whereas, having made his mark and set the bar of achievement high in his profession, he will be remembered with affection and gratitude by colleagues and legislative friends for years to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate the Honorable Ralph King Anderson, Jr., upon the occasion of his retirement from a distinguished judicial career in South Carolina, commend him for his many years of dedicated service as a circuit judge, appeals court judge, and recently as a retired/active judge for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, and wish him much happiness and fulfillment in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Honorable Ralph King Anderson, Jr.

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