**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR JUDGE MILDRED WEATHERS MCDUFFIE, OF RICHLAND COUNTY, FOR HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO HUMANITY, HER COMMUNITY, AND HER CHURCH.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina Senate honors individuals who freely give of their time and resources for the good of others; and

Whereas, Judge Mildred Weathers McDuffie, of Richland County, stands high among their number, much admired for her years of unceasing effort to make her community, State, and nation a better place to live; and

Whereas, Mildred McDuffie has been a teacher, a district administrator, an elected official, and a summary court judge, but her life’s work has been that of a sculptor–people shaper; and

Whereas, a native South Carolinian, Judge McDuffie graduated from Booker T. Washington High School, Allen University, and South Carolina State University; and

Whereas, for thirty‑four years, she worked tirelessly as a teacher and administrator in Richland County School District One. Thousands of students benefited from her love and unyielding desire to see them learn and blossom into responsible, successful citizens; and

Whereas, while employed with the district, Judge McDuffie was elected to Richland County Council, where she served for one term. She retired from the district in 1998, and in 2001, at the recommendation of State Senator Darrell Jackson, she was appointed a summary court judge. While vigorously upholding the law and seeking justice, Judge McDuffie has served honorably with a common touch. Her deep understanding of the community and godly wisdom have been assets to Richland County and South Carolina; and

Whereas, she has served on countless boards and commissions, including those of the National Association of Commissions for Women, the Columbia Cooperative Ministry, the South Carolina Christian Action Council’s Literacy Task Force, the South Carolina Coalition for Alcohol Safety and Safe Communities, and the Mental Health Association. She is an international workshop presenter, having been certified through many national organizations; and

Whereas, in addition, she is a life member of the NAACP, the National Judges Association, and numerous other social and professional organizations, and, as a committed member of Bethel AME Church, she serves as president of the Women’s Missionary Society and chairs the Accreditation Committee of the Bethel Learning Center and Academy, which is accredited by the South Carolina Independent Schools Association; and

Whereas, in appreciation for her lifetime of serving others, Judge McDuffie has received many awards and honors, among them the St. Luke Episcopal Church’s Outstanding Service Award, the Allen University Service Award, the National Youth Sports Program Services Award, and the Columbia Urban League’s Whitney M. Young, Jr., Award in recognition of her leadership as a human‑rights and social‑justice advocate. She was also named one of the 10 Most Outstanding Women in Columbia; and

Whereas, the Senate recognizes that the success of the State of South Carolina, the strength of its communities, and the vitality of American society as a whole depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of individuals like Judge Mildred McDuffie who use their talents and resources to serve others. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, honor Judge Mildred Weathers McDuffie, of Richland County, for her outstanding service to humanity, her community, and her church.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Judge Mildred Weathers McDuffie.

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