**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE ROBERT W. BEDELL III OF LEXINGTON COUNTY UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF SOUTHERN MUTUAL CHURCH INSURANCE COMPANY, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH FULFILLMENT AND SUCCESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, having served more than forty years in the insurance industry, Robert W. Bedell III of Lexington County will retire from his post as president and chief executive officer of Columbia’s Southern Mutual Church Insurance Company at the end of 2011; and

Whereas, in preparation for his career, Mr. Bedell graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1977 with a bachelor of science degree. He also served his country in the United States Army, finishing his career in the armed forces in 1967; and

Whereas, he began his civilian career as an auditor with South Carolina National Bank in Columbia. Later, he embarked on a career in insurance by accepting a position with United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company, worked in the insurance field, and moved to Great American Insurance in marketing; and

Whereas, in June of 1985, Mr. Bedell left Great American to become executive vice president of Southern Mutual Church Insurance Company, a company that provides property and casualty insurance to churches. He continued in his post as executive vice president until he took the helm as president in 1999. Mr. Bedell has served as a leader at Southern Mutual for more than twenty‑six years, and under his guidance the company has more than tripled its directly written premiums and expanded its operations to North Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee; and

Whereas, although he will retire from his post as president later this year, Mr. Bedell will continue to serve Southern Mutual as a member of its board of directors; and

Whereas, mindful of the importance of living life to the fullest, Mr. Bedell embodies the words of Abraham Lincoln to “Live a good life and in the end, it’s not the years in a life, it’s the life in the years;” and

Whereas, having earned the respect of all who have had the privilege of working with him, Robert Bedell will be remembered with affection and gratitude by colleagues and legislative friends for years to come. The Senate trusts he will find great pleasure in the more relaxing pace of the days ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Robert W. Bedell III of Lexington County upon his retirement as president and chief executive officer of Southern Mutual Church Insurance Company, and wish him much fulfillment and success in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Robert W. Bedell III.

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