**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND JOHN W. GADSON, SR., OF BEAUFORT COUNTY FOR HIS OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

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

Whereas, retired businessman and educator John W. Gadson, Sr., of Beaufort County has contributed valuable community and public service to the citizens of the Palmetto State and is thereby worthy of praise and recognition; and

Whereas, after serving several years in the U.S. Army, John Gadson earned his bachelor’s degree at South Carolina State University in 1960. At Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, he earned a master’s degree in education, subsequently also studying in the Southeastern Leadership Development Fellowship Program in Atlanta, a Ford Foundation‑sponsored program for those interested in influencing public policies. In addition, he earned certification as an economic development professional from the National Development Council in New York; and

Whereas, Mr. Gadson began his career at Robert Smalls High School in Beaufort, where from 1960 to 1966 he taught chemistry, physics, and other branches of science and served as unofficial assistant principal and part‑time student counselor; and

Whereas, he next took up his duties as director of the Beaufort‑Jasper Neighborhood Youth Corps, which employed hundreds of youth annually and advocated for many disadvantaged students to attend college. In 1969, he became the Executive Director of Penn Community Services, Inc., on St. Helena Island, where he had the privilege of initiating and promoting the designation of Penn Center as a National Historic Landmark District, as well as that of initiating and developing the original museum; and

Whereas, in 1977, Mr. Gadson accepted the position of senior research director for the State Reorganization Commission, a research and policy‑review unit of the Governor’s Office and the South Carolina General Assembly; and

Whereas, posts with increasing responsibility followed. He served as Deputy Director of the Division of Rural Development and Special Economic Assistance, Office of the Governor; Director of the Division of Small and Minority Business Assistance, Office of the Governor; and from 1987 to 2001, he was Director of the Regional Small Business Development Center at South Carolina State University (SCSU), where he also served as an adjunct member of the faculty in the SCSU School of Business; and

Whereas, after retirement in 2001, John Gadson volunteered for a year with AmeriCo‑Vista, for which he analyzed available resources for small‑business growth and development in the South Carolina Lowcountry; and

Whereas, firmly believing in community involvement, Mr. Gadson has served on boards and commissions of numerous entities, among them are the Beaufort Housing Authority, past Chairman of the Beaufort Historic District Review Board, Family Health Center in Orangeburg, Beaufort County Joint Planning Commission, and South Carolina Literacy Council. He also staffed the Small and Minority Business Expansion Council, an assignment from Governor Richard Riley; and

Whereas, he has not gone unappreciated but has received, among other honors, the Governor’s Office of Small and Minority Business Assistance Advocate Award (2008), SBA Small Business Service Award (2000), Minority Business Development Agency Regional Advocacy of the Year Award (2000), and Palmetto Gentleman Award, bestowed by Governor Riley (1986). In 1977, he was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to serve on a national team for evaluation of the federal agency ACTION; and

Whereas, the members of the Senate recognize 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 John W. Gadson, Sr., 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, recognize and commend John W. Gadson, Sr., of Beaufort County for his outstanding community and public service to the people of South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to John W. Gadson, Sr.

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