**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE LAURA KNIGHT SCHIPMANN OF DORCHESTER COUNTY ON THE OCCASION OF HER FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY, AND TO WISH HER A JOYOUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND MANY MORE YEARS OF GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are delighted to learn that Laura Knight Schipmann of Dorchester County is celebrating her fiftieth birthday this year; and

Whereas, in preparation for her life’s work as an educator, Laura Knight Schipmann earned her bachelor’s degree at Winthrop College, later completing a second undergraduate degree in elementary education at Baptist College in Charleston. She then pursued postgraduate studies at The Citadel, where she earned her elementary guidance master’s degree plus thirty, being one of only twenty‑one teachers in the lowcountry tri‑county area selected for this program at that institution. In addition, she is certified in both ADEPT and the gifted and talented program; and

Whereas, born March 31, 1961, Mrs. Schipmann’s teaching career began in 1983, and she was named Teacher of the Year for the Berkeley County School District in 1994‑1995. In 2004, she continued her career at Dorchester School District 4 where she worked as a trainer of teacher cadets; coordinated her school’s spelling bee, science night, math night, and reading night; planned instruction for the gifted and talented; chaired MUSC’s Masterminds for Life; served as staff liaison for new teachers; and served as group counselor for new students, as well as students experiencing parental divorce, anger‑management issues, bereavement, and other life challenges. She was also the first coach of the robotics team in Dorchester County; and

Whereas, she currently serves our great State as guidance counselor at Harleyville-Ridgeville Elementary School and takes an active part in soliciting the support of local businesses for her school in the form of grants. She enthusiastically encourages and facilitates the school’s participation in programs as varied as one helping students experience and adopt healthier eating habits and a program focusing on recycling; and

Whereas, active in her community, she is a Relay for Life Committee co‑chair for Dorchester School District 4 and a devoted member of Indian Field United Methodist Church; and

Whereas, those who know and love Laura Knight Schipmann are excited to join with her on May 7, 2011, at a surprise celebration of her fifty years of life, love, and friendship, the event to be hosted by her mother, the Honorable Patsy Knight; her devoted husband, Billy; her wonderful son, Al; her loving sister and brother‑in‑law, Mary Margaret and Ben Riser; and their daughter, Trish; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives is pleased to honor Laura Knight Schipmann at the celebration of her fiftieth birthday and joins with her family and friends in congratulating this outstanding educator, guidance counselor, and community volunteer; loving wife and mother; and beloved daughter, sister, and friend on reaching this important life’s milestone. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Laura Knight Schipmann of Dorchester County on the occasion of her fiftieth birthday, and wish her a joyous birthday celebration and many more years of good health and happiness.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Laura Knight Schipmann.

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