**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE KERSHAW COUNTY VOLUNTEER GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM ON THE OCCASION OF ITS TWENTY‑FIFTH ANNIVERSARY AND TO THANK THE PROGRAM FOR ITS MANY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE ON BEHALF OF ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the members of the South Carolina General Assembly honor individuals and organizations that freely give of their time and resources for the good of others, especially those who need it most; and

Whereas, the Kershaw County Volunteer Guardian ad Litem Program, now celebrating its twenty‑fifth anniversary, is carried out by exemplary volunteer workers (GALs) who truly care about the abused and neglected children they seek to assist. Through its GALs, the program has contributed untold hours of valuable volunteer service to the citizens of South Carolina and is thereby worthy of praise; and

Whereas, the first coordinator of the program was Carolyn Morris (1987) and its first training class was held in 1988. Betty Rudd, who continues to serve as a GAL, was part of that first training class. Since 2005, Elizabeth May, the present coordinator, has been at the helm, serving with the same distinction as her predecessors, and on May 29, 2012, she will have the pleasure of counting thirty‑four volunteers on her roster; and

Whereas, part of the Cass Elias McCarter South Carolina Guardian ad Litem Program, the Kershaw County Volunteer Guardian ad Litem Program works under the mission of its state organization, which seeks to recruit, train, and supervise volunteers who are court‑appointed to represent and advocate for the best interests of children in Family Court proceedings involving allegations of abuse and neglect. On average, the program has about fifty cases serving approximately one hundred children per month; and

Whereas, as an outstanding GAL program, the Kershaw County Volunteer Guardian ad Litem Program has been recognized for its exceptional workers. In 2009, Frankye C. Hull was named National Child Advocate of the Year by the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association, and in 2012 David A. Partin was selected to receive the Direct Service Volunteer award by the South Carolina Association for Volunteer Administration; and

Whereas, grateful for the fine work accomplished by the GAL volunteers of Kershaw County, the South Carolina General Assembly is proud to add its collective voice to the many warm expressions of praise so well deserved by the Kershaw County Volunteer Guardian ad Litem Program. The members congratulate the program on its twenty‑five years of important service to the citizens of Kershaw County. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Kershaw County Volunteer Guardian ad Litem Program on the occasion of its twenty‑fifth anniversary and thank the program for its many years of outstanding community service on behalf of abused and neglected children.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Kershaw County Volunteer Guardian ad Litem Program.

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