**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA ON REACHING THE MILESTONE OF TWENTY YEARS OF DEMOCRACY AND TO EXTEND THE BEST WISHES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR CONTINUED PEACE AND GROWING PROSPERITY FOR THE CITIZENS OF THAT “BELOVED COUNTRY”.

Whereas, in 1993, an agreement was reached in the nation of South Africa on a Government of National Unity that would allow a partnership of the old regime and the new, with a view to dismantling the country’s system of apartheid. As a result, in the following year South Africa’s first democratic election was held in April, and the victor in that election, Nelson Mandela, was sworn in as President on May 10; and

Whereas, the reconstruction and development of the country and its institutions called for the simultaneous pursuit of democratization and socioeconomic change, as well as reconciliation and the building of consensus founded on the commitment to improve the lives of all South Africans. This process required the integration of South Africa into a rapidly changing global environment; and

Whereas, in the conduct of its international relations, the South Africa of today is committed to enhancing democracy and human rights, upholding justice and international law in relations between nations, seeking peaceful resolution of conflicts, and promoting economic development through regional and international cooperation in an interdependent world; and

Whereas, in commending South Africa on its progress toward reaching these worthy goals over the past two decades, the South Carolina House of Representatives is eager to encourage trade and tourism initiatives between the State of South Carolina and the Republic of South Africa, and its members look forward to working with appropriate South African officials to that end. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate citizens of the Republic of South Africa on reaching the milestone of twenty years of democracy and extend the best wishes of the South Carolina House of Representatives for continued peace and growing prosperity for the citizens of that “Beloved Country”.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to His Excellency Jacob G. Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa, Marthinus van Schalknyk, the Minister of Tourism of the Republic of South Africa, and Jacques Smalle, the Shadow Minister of Energy of the Republic of South Africa.

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