**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE W. COTHRAN “COT” CAMPBELL, PRESIDENT OF AIKEN’S DOGWOOD STABLE, ON THE IMPRESSIVE FIRST‑PLACE WIN OF PALACE MALICE, “AIKEN’S HORSE” AND THE PRIDE OF DOGWOOD STABLE, IN THE 145TH RUNNING OF THE PRESTIGIOUS BELMONT STAKES.

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is pleased to learn that W. Cothran “Cot” Campbell, president of Dogwood Stable, took home first‑place honors at the 145th running of the one‑million‑dollar Belmont Stakes (G‑1), as a result of the outstanding performance of Dogwood Stable’s champion horse, Palace Malice; and

Whereas, held at New York’s Belmont Park on Saturday, June 8, 2013, the Belmont Stakes once again proved itself worthy of its reputation as the third and final jewel of Thoroughbred racing’s Triple Crown; and

Whereas, the fourteen‑horse field, the largest since 1996, got off to an even start. In a truly magnificent performance, Palace Malice, fifth in the early part of the race, was third after a mile, just three lengths off the lead. He came up alongside Oxbow at the top of the stretch and then surged to the front, headed to a convincing 3¼‑length victory; and

Whereas, Palace Malice’s Belmont Stakes victory showcased the colt’s inherent heart and intrepidity as he demonstrated a champion’s spirit and desire to win in the 1½‑mile race. The three‑year‑old bay colt, conditioned by the nation’s leading trainer, Todd Pletcher, and ridden to perfection by Hall of Fame jockey Mike Smith, captured the imagination of the nation; and

Whereas, after the win, Cot and his supportive wife of many years, Anne, enjoyed an outpouring of support, congratulations, and appreciation from people all over the nation and beyond, and Aiken fans rejoiced in leading the way in the South Carolina celebration. On arriving at the airport after Palace Malice’s victory, the Campbells found it decorated, with people dancing in the street, and they reached home to be greeted by a gigantic crowd and festoons of green and yellow, Dogwood Stable’s colors; and

Whereas, on the following Monday, the Aiken Rotary Club filled Newberry Hall with green and yellow balloons and displayed a delicious green and yellow cake to recognize the win. As a member of the Rotary Club, Cot Campbell, an energetic octogenarian, walked in with wife Anne to a congratulatory standing ovation; and

Whereas, as for the equine hero of the hour, Palace Malice is readying himself for the next challenge, the Jim Dandy Stakes at Saratoga on July 27, 2013; and

Whereas, grateful for the pride and recognition Palace Malice has brought to South Carolina, the General Assembly takes great pleasure in applauding this superb horse and his owners for their recent victory at the Belmont Stakes. 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, congratulate W. Cothran “Cot” Campbell, president of Aiken’s Dogwood Stable, on the impressive first‑place win of Palace Malice, “Aiken’s horse” and the pride of Dogwood Stable, in the 145th running of the prestigious Belmont Stakes.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Cot and Anne Campbell.

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