**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR AND CONGRATULATE THE HONORABLE OSBORNE L. JOHNSON, JR., FORMER MAYOR OF LITTLE MOUNTAIN, FOR THE REMARKABLE VISION, LEADERSHIP, AND ACHIEVEMENTS THAT CHARACTERIZED HIS ALMOST TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE AS MAYOR AND TO RECOGNIZE THE OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS ENLIGHTENED AND PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP.

Whereas, for nearly twenty years, the Honorable Osborne L. “Buddy” Johnson, Jr., served as Mayor of Little Mountain, initially from January 1979 to November 1982 and subsequently from December 1996 to December 2012, the latter term a sixteen‑year period during which, under his dedicated, distinguished, and highly effective leadership, the Town of Little Mountain and the surrounding community made extraordinary advances; and

Whereas, because of Mayor Buddy Johnson’s progressive agenda, the town government pursued a series of needed and creative community projects, largely with funds derived from cash, property, and in‑kind donations, grants, and the Newberry County capital‑projects sales tax; and

Whereas, the new Little Mountain Fire Department and Rescue Squad building and the J. Kess Derrick Community Medical Center were constructed, as was the adjacent Sam Derrick Helicopter Pad, all on donated land; and

Whereas, with much encouragement from the municipal government, the Newberry County School District expended $12.5 million to preserve and expand the historic Little Mountain Elementary School, built in 1909. In addition, the town government secured grants to construct the Louie Derrick Community Hall/Senior Citizens Center on donated land; and

Whereas, the Newberry County Water and Sewer Authority constructed a public sewer collection line to serve the town by using county capital projects funds and a state sewer grant supported by town government and received by the Authority; and

Whereas, further, Reunion Park has received significant improvements, Brady Park and several other parks have been created, and the Rocky Branch Natural Area, containing forty‑four acres, has been established on donated land; and

Whereas, Little Mountain’s corporate limits have been expanded to include most of the South Carolina Highway 202 corridor to I‑26, as well as the Rocky Branch Natural Area. In addition, for the purpose of retaining the town’s village atmosphere, the town government sponsored the Little Mountain Historic District, now recognized by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and the U.S. Department of the Interior; and

Whereas, with the assistance of the South Carolina Mayors’ Institute and South Carolina Design Arts Partnership, composed of Clemson University and the South Carolina Arts Commission, and with support from the South Carolina Humanities Council, a history harvest of Little Mountain was compiled and a history DVD developed that portrays the history of Little Mountain. This resource was made available to SCETV and the public; and

Whereas, this remarkable record of vision, leadership, and achievements has been the brainchild of former Mayor Buddy Johnson; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives is grateful to former Mayor Johnson for his dedicated and distinguished leadership and service. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor and congratulate the Honorable Osborne L. Johnson, Jr., former mayor of Little Mountain, for the remarkable vision, leadership, and achievements that characterized his almost twenty years of service as mayor and recognize the outstanding community achievements of his enlightened and progressive leadership.

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