**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CELEBRATE THE TWENTY‑EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA POULTRY FESTIVAL HELD IN BATESBURG‑LEESVILLE, AND TO HONOR ALL THOSE PLANNING AND PARTICIPATING IN THE 2014 FESTIVAL.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that the South Carolina Poultry Festival will celebrate its twenty‑eighth year at this year’s festival in Batesburg‑Leesville from May 8 through 10, 2014; and

Whereas, employing thousands of citizens, South Carolina’s billion‑dollar poultry industry produces, processes, and markets vast amounts of eggs, broilers, turkeys, pigeons, quail, and spring chickens; and

Whereas, Lexington, Saluda, and Aiken counties serve as home to some of the state’s top broiler producers, including such household names as Amick’s Farms, Columbia Farms, and Gentry Poultry Company; and

Whereas, in 1986, Batesburg‑Leesville restaurant owner Sara Shealy hatched the idea of a poultry festival based in Lexington County to showcase the state’s largest agri‑business, and the Leesville Merchants Association created a festival from her proposal; and

Whereas, in 1987, the Ridge Poultry Festival hosted twenty thousand visitors, which became the South Carolina Poultry Festival in 1989. In recent years, attendance has exceeded one hundred thousand; and

Whereas, today the festival features six stages offering continuous entertainment, thirty food vendors, a carnival, a parade with well over one hundred units, and more than thirty commercial vendors and one hundred ten crafters; and

Whereas, a senior at River Bluff High School, Taylor Cordovano of Lexington will reign over the festival as Miss South Carolina Poultry Festival and will receive a one thousand dollar scholarship. Her court includes first runner up and winner of a $300.00 scholarship, Tori Perano, a freshman at the College of Charleston from Edgefield, and second runner up and winner of a $200.00 scholarship, Carrie Ann Quarles of Edgefield; and

Whereas, the event presents the best of Southern hospitality, and proceeds regularly support various local charities, organizations, and community causes while hosting the festival’s own “#1 World’s Best Chicken Cooking Contest”; and

Whereas, an impressive car show will display over a hundred vintage vehicles, athletes can participate in a five‑kilometer road race and golf and volleyball tournaments, and the young at heart can enjoy street dancing on Friday and Saturday evenings; and

Whereas, a spectacular display of the American spirit will conclude the festival on Saturday evening in one of the largest pyro‑musical shows available; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives commend the planners and participants of the twenty‑eighth annual South Carolina Poultry Festival and appreciate the beneficial impact of the poultry industry on the economy of the Palmetto State. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, celebrate the twenty‑eighth anniversary of the South Carolina Poultry Festival held in Batesburg‑Leesville, and honor all those planning and participating in the 2014 festival.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑