**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR CHERYL SPENCER, FOUNDER OF COLUMBIA MONTESSORI CHILDREN’S HOUSE, UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AFTER FORTY YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE, AND TO WISH HER CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, it is altogether fitting and proper that the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina should pause in their deliberations to express their gratitude to Cheryl Spencer for her significant contributions to education; and

Whereas, attracted by the learning values found in the Montessori process, she and her husband, Ed, wanted a Montessori education for their two sons to allow them freedom within limits; to teach them to be independent; and to respect their natural psychological, physical, and social development; and

Whereas, since Columbia had no Montessori schools at the time, they decided to start their own, and thus Columbia Montessori Children’s House came into existence; and

Whereas, when word spread that the school had begun in 1973 in a single rented classroom in a church in Northeast Columbia, enrollment doubled, forcing the Spencers to lease more space. By 1976, Columbia Montessori Children’s House settled permanently in the Melrose Heights neighborhood at the corner of Woodrow and Kershaw streets; and

Whereas, in the past forty years, Cheryl Spencer has taught hundreds of Columbia’s children in an environment where children have enjoyed a sense of community and peace; and

Whereas, with music surrounding them, children ages two and a half to six work side by side on different educational activities without confusion, learning at their own pace and gently guided by their teachers while the older children help the younger ones; and

Whereas, Mrs. Spencer’s love of the environment and travel have worked their way into the curriculum: children learn about nature through hands‑on planting in the school’s garden and develop a global perspective by studying geography and other cultures; and

Whereas, in May 2014, Columbia Montessori Children’s House will close, but Cheryl Spencer will continue to train the next generation of Montessori teachers through programs at Lander and Clemson universities and with a program in North Carolina; and

Whereas, together with her husband of forty‑eight years, she raised two fine sons, Chris and Scott, and she is a member and elder at Shandon Presbyterian Church in Columbia; and

Whereas, she is a member of the Philanthropic Education Organization (PEO), which is dedicated to assisting young women in their educational pursuits; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the years of outstanding dedication that Cheryl Spencer has devoted to the education of our youngest citizens and wish her many years of enjoyment in her well‑earned retirement. 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, recognize and honor Cheryl Spencer, founder of Columbia Montessori Children’s House, upon the occasion of her retirement after forty years of exemplary service, and wish her continued success and happiness in all her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Cheryl Spencer.

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