**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND THE HONORABLE ROBERT NATHANIEL JENKINS, CIRCUIT FAMILY COURT JUDGE, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the judicial career of the Honorable Robert N. Jenkins, Sr., will be celebrated at the New Season Banquet in Greenville on Friday, May 9, 2014, where his long time friend and colleague, the Honorable James E. Clyburn, will present the keynote address; and

Whereas, the eleventh of thirteen children born to Shepherd and the Reverend Elouise “Nancy” Jenkins of McClellanville, Robert Nathaniel Jenkins was born on August 8, 1947, and graduated cum laude from Burke High School in Charleston in 1964; and

Whereas, after serving his nation in the United States Air Force for four years during the Vietnam era, Robert Jenkins entered The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, in 1969 as a veteran student and earned a bachelor’s in political science in 1972, the fourth African American to receive an undergraduate degree from The Citadel, where he later served on the Board of Visitors from 1991 to 1996; and

Whereas, he earned a juris doctorate from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1975 and became an advocate for the poor as a staff attorney for the Charleston‑based legal aid office until 1979, coordinating the expansion of locally based legal aid offices in Beaufort, Berkeley, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Horry, Jasper, Marion, and Williamsburg counties; and

Whereas, from 1979 to 1996, he served as director and chief attorney for the Legal Services Agency of Western Carolina, pioneering the expansion of local‑based legal aid offices in Abbeville, Anderson, Edgefield, Greenwood, McCormick, Oconee, and Pickens counties and developing the Libra Society to provide legal services for those not served by legal aid offices; and

Whereas, in 1996, Robert Jenkins was elected by the South Carolina General Assembly to serve as a judge of the Family Court for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Seat #5; and

Whereas, Judge Jenkins has been actively involved with his community through Greenville’s Child, Inc.; the Greenville Chamber of Commerce; S.H.A.R.E., Inc.; Save Our Sons; S.C. Families for Kids; Neighborhoods in Action; Allen Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church; the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; the South Carolina Commission on Standards of Judicial Conduct; and the South Carolina Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission; and

Whereas, in 2013, the South Carolina Conference of Family Court Judges honored Judge Jenkins with the prestigious Buchan, Brown & Jacobs Award for highest integrity, professionalism, skill, compassion, spirit, optimism, and courage among his peers; and

Whereas, in his “new season” as an active retired judge, he will bring his expertise to private and public mandatory mediation, presiding with a holistic and therapeutic approach over cases of “crossover children,” those involved with both the Department of Social Services and the Department of Juvenile Justice; and

Whereas, together with his beloved wife and high school sweetheart, the former Margaret Helen Rivers of McClellanville, he reared two fine sons, Robert, Jr., and Jason Matthew; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is grateful for the years of unparalleled dedication that Robert Jenkins has devoted to the state’s judicial system as he has daily lived out his personal vision in the words of the Prophet Micah to “do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God,” and wishes him many years of enjoyment in his well‑earned retirement. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and commend the Honorable Robert Nathaniel Jenkins, Family Court Judge, upon the occasion of his retirement after eighteen years of exemplary service, and wish him continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Honorable Robert Nathaniel Jenkins.

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