**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE KATIE DAMRON, DIRECTOR EMERITUS OF SUMTER LITTLE THEATRE, FOR HER MANY YEARS OF PROVIDING EXEMPLARY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS AND EDUCATION TO THE CITIZENS OF SUMTER.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that on September 25, 2014, Sumter Little Theatre will celebrate Katie Damron’s commitment to providing outstanding theatrical productions and education to the appreciative audiences of Sumter with an evening of performances and tributes called *Celebrating Katie*; and

Whereas, born in Pikeville, Kentucky, Katie Damron’s theatrical training began in early childhood and elementary school. Her arts training and study began at Pikeville College Academy and College, where she studied under multiple professional artists between 1945 and 1948. The learning experiences were rare since all her music, acting, directing, costume design, and movement instructors were World War II concentration camp refugees. One highlight of her education included study with Sonja Moore, the last living person in America who studied directly under Constantin Stanislavsky; and

Whereas, from 1953 to 1997, Katie pursued an active career in broadcasting through her ownership of a broadcasting company in Sumter; and

Whereas, her involvement with Sumter Little Theatre began in 1955. Since then, she has devoted much of her time to ensuring the survival of the organization. She has served the theatre doing innumerable jobs, including costume design, stage management, and play direction. She created the Sumter Little Theatre Youth Theatre Program from the ground up and served as instructor with little or no pay for many years; and

Whereas, over time, her various volunteer positions evolved into her position as executive director, and she served as such for many years in capacities too numerous to document. During her tenure at Sumter Little Theatre, she directed well over one hundred plays for children and adults; and

Whereas, in 1986, she reorganized the theatre and made its new focus theatre for children and young people from varied backgrounds. The theatre relocated to its current home in the Sumter County Cultural Center; and

Whereas, the September 25 celebration of Katie Damron’s labor of love for Sumter Little Theatre will feature local actors, musicians, and former cast members and students honoring Katie with their artistry, beginning with a reception. These performers will draw from such memorable Sumter Little Theatre productions as *Annie*, *West Side Story*, *Guys and Dolls*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Of Mice and Men*; and

Whereas, grateful for her theatrical gifts and cognizant that it’s her turn for a curtain call, the House takes great pleasure in congratulating and thanking Katie Damron for her decades of amazing contributions to the cultural life of Sumter. 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 congratulate Katie Damron, director emeritus of Sumter Little Theatre, for her many years of providing exemplary theatrical productions and education to the citizens of Sumter.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Katie Damron.

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