**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR SHERIFF STEVE MUELLER OF CHEROKEE COUNTY FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED AND SELFLESS SERVICE IN PROTECTING THE CITIZENS OF OUR STATE AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM FOR BEING NAMED THE 2016 SHERIFF OF THE YEAR.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are delighted to learn that Sheriff Steve Mueller was named the 2016 Sheriff of the Year by the South Carolina Sheriffs’ Association on May 9, 2016, and that he will receive this prestigious honor at the Association’s Annual Conference in Myrtle Beach in July; and

Whereas, nominated by fellow Sheriff Chuck Wright of Spartanburg County, Sheriff Mueller exhibits remarkable professionalism, dedication, and resourcefulness, leading a small, rural county sheriff’s office and transforming it into an exemplary agency; and

Whereas, willing to embrace new programs and new technology, Sheriff Mueller has served his community and enabled the Cherokee County Sheriff’s Office to improve in significant ways, including lowering the crime rates for both violent and property crimes for four consecutive years; and

Whereas, Sheriff Mueller initiated a chaplaincy program to support law enforcement and civilian personnel of the sheriff’s office in times of crisis or to assist them if pastoral help is needed; and

Whereas, he created closer relationships between law enforcement officers and school‑aged youth by instituting numerous programs and encouraging his deputies to read with students at school, eat lunch them, and participate in their recreational activities; and

Whereas, Sheriff Mueller expanded and tailored the *Too Good for Drugs* curriculum for students in grades K‑5 and initiated the first Law Enforcement Day Camp for youth in Cherokee County in partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs; and

Whereas, to educate young drivers in the safe operation of motor vehicles, he initiated and supported Alive at 25, a survival course for drivers between the ages of fifteen and twenty‑five; and

Whereas, by adopting the use of the Project Lifesaver program, Sheriff Mueller has enabled officers to locate subscribers who suffer from such medical conditions as dementia, Alzheimer’s disease, or autism should they wander from their residences; and

Whereas, Sheriff Mueller, a staunch advocate for protecting citizens from the dangers of illegal drug use and prescription drug abuse, established a full‑time Criminal Interdiction Team in the county aimed at reducing drug violations and addressing the need for the proper disposal of outdated or unused prescription medications; and

Whereas, in celebration of his receiving this esteemed award, Moseley Architects, a longtime supporter of the South Carolina Sheriffs’ Association, will present Sheriff Mueller with a check for one thousand dollars for the Cherokee County Sheriff’s Office; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is grateful for the noteworthy accomplishments of Sheriff Mueller on behalf of the citizens of Cherokee County, and the members celebrate with him for being named the 2016 Sheriff of the Year. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, recognize and honor Sheriff Steve Mueller of Cherokee County for his distinguished and selfless service in protecting the citizens of our State and congratulate him for being named the 2016 Sheriff of the Year.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Sheriff Steve Mueller.

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