**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR RADENKO PAVLOVICH, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF COLUMBIA CLASSICAL BALLET, FOR HIS LIFELONG AND SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF BALLET AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM UPON THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE 2015 LIFECHANCE: INTERNATIONAL BALLET GALA OF THE STARS.

Whereas, a native of Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, Radenko Pavlovich began his ballet training at the age of eight, after Yugoslavian officials selected him for his apparent ability and sent him to Sarajevo Opera Ballet School, where he soon rose to the top of his class; and

Whereas, he advanced to the renowned Vaganova Institute in St. Petersburg, Russia, and in his final year, Mr. Pavlovich earned admittance and a full scholarship to the Royal Ballet School in London, England, the only foreign student in an elite graduating class; and

Whereas, his stunning talent and artistic power soon distinguished Mr. Pavlovich, and he immediately captivated the attention of Grand Ballet Master Rudolf Nureyev, who personally coached him in technique and character; and

Whereas, under Mr. Nureyev’s tutelage, Mr. Pavlovich earned the highest honors at the Balkan Ballet Competition, and he began dancing with the Austrian National Ballet and became a soloist with the Croatian National Theatre of Yugoslavia and London Festival Ballet and later a principal with the Munich State Opera Ballet, Ballet Casa Della Cultura in Equador, and Atlanta Ballet; and

Whereas, when he retired, Mr. Pavlovich relocated to Columbia and opened the Pavlovich Dance School in Forest Acres. He discovered the need for a sophisticated classical ballet company in the area and founded Columbia Classical Ballet, composed of the highest‑caliber dancers who have earned accolades at competitions and danced as guests and residing artists throughout the world, thus qualifying Columbia Classical Ballet as one of the most reputable companies of its size; and

Whereas, as the artistic director of Columbia Classical Ballet, he inaugurated the annual LifeChance: International Ballet Gala of the Stars, bringing luminary artists to the city from such well‑known companies as the Joffrey Ballet, Washington Ballet, Boston Ballet, and Charlotte Ballet; and

Whereas, over the years, the gala has raised money for charities including the Free Medical Clinic of Columbia, Ronald McDonald House, Big Brothers‑Big Sisters, Harvest Hope Food Bank, and Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. The 2015 event in January benefitted Finlay Scholars; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives deeply appreciate the profound impact that Radenko Pavlovich has made on classical ballet, his continued commitment to his adopted community, and his gracious support of charities in our 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, recognize and honor Radenko Pavlovich, Artistic Director of Columbia Classical Ballet, for his lifelong and significant contributions in the field of ballet and to congratulate him upon the successful completion of the 2015 LifeChance: International Ballet Gala of the Stars.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Radenko Pavlovich.

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