**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE GRATITUDE OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE FOR THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF MARK C. HARMON DURING HIS TENURE AS SENATE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND TO WISH HIM MUCH SUCCESS IN HIS NEW ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, having already impressed the members of the Senate with his exceptional service as Republican Caucus research director for the previous six years, Mark C. Harmon in 2011 took up his duties as executive director of the South Carolina Senate Republican Caucus. In this new post, Mark continued to prove himself worthy of the Senate’s high regard. On January 16, 2015, Mark resigned the position he had filled in so exemplary a fashion; and

Whereas, during his time as executive director, Mark worked hard, with the goal of doing everything possible to help the members assist the people of our State by enacting common‑sense and conservative laws. He diligently pursued an agenda to build the prosperity of South Carolina. In addition, he helped the caucus raise funds for reelection and worked with all the Republican Senators toward a unified direction for each legislative session; and

Whereas, born and raised in Gaffney, Mark Harmon graduated from Clemson University with a bachelor’s degree in ceramic and materials engineering. Because he strongly believes in spreading his South Carolina loyalties around, he then became a USC Gamecock fan for life; and

Whereas, when he’s not at the State House, Mark relaxes with a round of golf; in fact, in 2012 he became famous in that sport when, to the astonishment of his golf buddies, he nailed a hole‑in‑one at the eighth hole of Beaufort County’s Secession Golf Club. (He built up those golf muscles while pitching on Wofford’s baseball team as a freshman.) When his athletic efforts create hunger pangs, Mark dreams of another life favorite, Spartanburg’s Beacon Drive‑in, which is one of the few remaining Southern restaurant legends that offer curb service. While awaiting his Beacon hot dog, he entertains himself and his friends by quoting the lyrics to practically every song ever written, all of which he seems to know; and

Whereas, the State House has given Mark Harmon more than just a memorable career; that worthy landmark also introduced him to his most valuable asset, his delightful wife, the former Elizabeth Powers, whom he met in the State House lobby. Prior to his April 2013 marriage to Elizabeth, Mark was an expert on every restaurant in Columbia; and

Whereas, grateful for Mark’s consistent dedication and excellence, the Senate says farewell to him with great regret. The members, however, take much pleasure in knowing he will enjoy continued success as he serves in his new post as vice president of public policy with the South Carolina Chamber. He will be missed by his staff colleagues, as well as by his many friends in the South Carolina Senate. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, express the gratitude of the South Carolina Senate for the distinguished service of Mark C. Harmon during his tenure as Senate Republican Caucus executive director and wish him much success in his new endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mark Harmon.

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