**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR JEFF MAXEY, A SPECIAL EDUCATION RESOURCE TEACHER AT STARR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN ANDERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT THREE, AND CONGRATULATE HIM FOR BEING NAMED THE 2019 SOUTH CAROLINA TEACHER OF THE YEAR BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Whereas, the members of the General Assembly were pleased to learn that the South Carolina Department of Education has named Jeff Maxey of Starr Elementary School the 2019 South Carolina Teacher of the Year; and

Whereas, in addition to teaching special education, Mr. Maxey serves as the Special Education Department head, a district teacher trainer, a district evaluator, and a master teacher mentor; and

Whereas, originally pursuing a career as a minister, he officiated over a funeral for a young student while serving in that role. After the funeral, he received an invitation to visit the classrooms of the student’s senior class to help them as they struggled with their loss, and through that experience he became inspired to pursue a career in education; and

Whereas, Mr. Maxey’s grandparents had instilled in him a love of logic through games and puzzles, such as backgammon and chess. The logic that those games required help him to impact the lives of students with special needs because he sees each student, like creative puzzles or multifaceted games, as having many intricate designs within; and

Whereas, his goal to help his students discover their abilities set him on a path to teach inner‑city middle school students, then to North Africa for eight years to teach educators as the national director of education and training for a nongovernmental organization, and finally to South Carolina; and

Whereas, as a roving ambassador during the 2018‑2019 school year, Mr. Maxey will provide mentoring, attend speaking engagements, work with teacher cadets and teaching fellows, lead the State Teacher Forum, and serve as the state advocate for the state’s cadre of more than fifty thousand teachers. As part of the South Carolina Teacher of the Year awards program, he receives twenty‑five thousand dollars and a brand new BMW vehicle for one year; and

Whereas, one of the country’s strongest teacher‑award programs, the South Carolina Teacher of the Year program celebrates excellence and strengthens the teaching force by honoring and recognizing exceptional teachers on a district, state, and national level, recognition which assists in retention efforts and serves as a powerful recruitment tool; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly salutes Jeff Maxey for his significant contributions in educating the Palmetto State’s children, our most treasured resource, to become productive citizens, and the members salute his recognition from the South Carolina Department of Education as the 2019 Teacher 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 Jeff Maxey, a special education resource teacher at Starr Elementary School in Anderson School District Three, and congratulate him for being named the 2019 South Carolina Teacher of the Year by the South Carolina Department of Education.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Jeff Maxey.

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