**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE AND HONOR JAMES ROBERT “JIM” MELTON UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS SERGEANT AT ARMS FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE, TO EXTEND DEEP APPRECIATION FOR HIS FORTY YEARS OF EXEMPLARY AND DEVOTED SERVICE TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE, AND TO OFFER HIM BEST WISHES FOR A SATISFYING AND REWARDING RETIREMENT.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate recognize the outstanding public service that James Robert “Jim” Melton, their friend and colleague, has rendered to the body upon the occasion of his retirement; and

Whereas, Jim Melton was born on October 31, 1952, the son of the late William A. Melton and Phyllis Glover (Melton) Kelly. He graduated from Camden High School and the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy; and

Whereas, Jim began his career with the South Carolina Senate on October 6, 1978. He initially served as Officer, Lieutenant, and Assistant Sergeant at Arms; and

Whereas, Jim reached the pinnacle of legislative security service when he was elected Sergeant at Arms of the Senate on January 9, 1990. Over the years, he has earned the trust and admiration of the Senate, being re-elected at the convening of every General Assembly since that time. He leaves a lasting legacy, having had an impact on everything from the body’s decorum to the chamber’s furniture, several pieces of which he crafted by hand; and

Whereas, a leader in his field, Jim has served the National Legislative Services and Security Association as Region 4 Vice Chair and Chair; 1st, 2nd, and 3rd trustee; Vice President; and President. He has also been a driving force providing valuable insight to members and staff on numerous committees and work groups of the National Conference of State Legislatures, including the Executive Committee; and

Whereas, given his many years of experience and expertise, Jim has received a number of honors and awards throughout his career, including Outstanding Young Men in America recognition, the National Conference of State Legislatures Legislative Staff Achievement Award, the National Legislative Services and Security Association Tony Beard Memorial Award, and the National Legislative Services and Security Association John Everhardt “Trooper” Award; and

Whereas, Jim has been married to his wife, Brenda Baker Melton, for forty-five years. Together, they have two children, James Robert Melton and Julie Melton Orren, and four grandchildren, Addison, Aidan, Elizabeth, and Kelly; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful for the passion and diligence that Jim Melton has shown in serving the State of South Carolina. His many friends in the body take great pleasure in wishing him all the best as he enters retirement, and the members trust he will find much enjoyment and fulfilment in the days ahead. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate and honor James Robert “Jim” Melton upon the occasion of his retirement as Sergeant at Arms for the South Carolina Senate, extend deep appreciation for his forty years of exemplary and devoted service to the South Carolina Senate, and offer him best wishes for a satisfying and rewarding retirement.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to James Robert “Jim” Melton.

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