**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE AND HONOR JOE AARON GAMBRELL OF ANDERSON COUNTY FOR FIFTY‑THREE YEARS OF SELFLESS SERVICE AS A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina Senate honors those individuals who serve tirelessly to ensure the safety of our citizens. Joe Aaron Gambrell of Anderson County stands among their number as an exceptional firefighter, one much admired by colleagues and area residents alike; and

Whereas, a member of the Friendship Fire Department in Anderson County for fifty‑three years, Mr. Gambrell was instrumental in establishing this volunteer fire department in 1965 and holds the distinction of being its longest‑serving charter member. In fact, he helped to construct the fire department’s building. During the octogenarian’s more than a half‑century as a firefighter, he has served as lieutenant and assistant fire chief and is currently serving as treasurer; and

Whereas, further, firefighting runs in the family: Mr. Gambrell’s son, South Carolina State Senator Mike Gambrell, is a past fire chief with the Friendship Fire Department; and

Whereas, over the years of his firefighting service, Joe Aaron Gambrell has earned certifications in first aid, interior firefighting, and emergency driving; and

Whereas, away from the fire house, Joe Aaron Gambrell, who retired from the United States Postal Service after forty years as a Honea Path‑area rural mail carrier, is a deacon in his church, Friendship Baptist, where he has been a member for over fifty years; and

Whereas, at age eighty‑five, this lifelong resident of Anderson County is still going strong in his service with the Friendship Fire Department; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is grateful for the admirable service Joe Aaron Gambrell has steadfastly given as an outstanding firefighter since 1965. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate and honor Joe Aaron Gambrell of Anderson County for fifty‑three years of selfless service as a volunteer firefighter.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Joe Aaron Gambrell.

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