**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR RACHEL WYATT FOR HER EXCEPTIONAL POISE, TALENT, AND BEAUTY AND TO CONGRATULATE HER FOR BEING NAMED MISS SOUTH CAROLINA FOR 2016.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to learn that Rachel Wyatt was crowned the 2016 Miss South Carolina at the Township Auditorium in Columbia on Saturday, June 25, 2016; and

Whereas, as the reigning Miss Clemson, Rachel Wyatt earned the crown in her first Miss South Carolina contest, but the Clemson University student is a seasoned contestant in pageants, having won the Miss South Carolina Teen in 2012, as well as Miss America’s Outstanding Teen in the “little‑sister” pageant to Miss America; and

Whereas, this native of Piedmont retired from pageants for a few years to enroll at Clemson and to dance as a Rally Cat, a member of the university’s elite dance team, but she returned to the pageant world in 2016 to be crowned Miss South Carolina from a company of fifty‑four veteran and beginner contestants; and

Whereas, not only did Ms. Wyatt win the crown, but she also won a thirty thousand dollar scholarship, along with a two thousand dollar scholarship for the overall talent award and one for seven hundred fifty dollars for a preliminary talent award; and

Whereas, for her talent in the pageant, she performed a dazzling jazz dance to an acoustic version of Whitney Houston’s “I Wanna Dance with Somebody”; and

Whereas, the night before, Makayla Stark was crowned Miss South Carolina Teen. Both she and Rachel Wyatt competed with the same title, the former as Miss Clemson Teen and the latter as Miss Clemson, the first time in the pageant’s history that both winners in the same year competed with the same title; and

Whereas, during her year as Miss South Carolina, Ms. Wyatt is advocating for adults with mental disabilities as a part of her platform, and she competed in September at the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, New Jersey; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciates the outstanding contributions that Rachel Wyatt is making as she represents the Palmetto State in her role as Miss South Carolina 2016, and the members look to hear of her ongoing accomplishments in the future. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor Rachel Wyatt for her exceptional poise, talent, and beauty and congratulate her for being named Miss South Carolina for 2016.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Rachel Wyatt.

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