**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO SALUTE JOHN B. RHODEN, JR., MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF HAMPTON, WHO, HAVING SERVED THE PUBLIC WITH DISTINCTION FOR MORE THAN THIRTY-SIX YEARS, IS WORTHY OF DEEP APPRECIATION FOR HIS DECADES OF COMMITTED SERVICE AND BEST WISHES FOR MUCH CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE YEARS TO COME.

Whereas, for more than thirty-six years, the Town of Hampton has enjoyed the benefit of the dedication and experience of Mayor John B. Rhoden, Jr., including a significant tenure as mayor to the vibrant, rural town; and

Whereas, born in Walterboro on January 31, 1942, John B. Rhoden, Jr., graduated from Walterboro High School. The young John continued his studies and graduated from Columbia Business College and Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, followed by a career in the funeral home business; and

Whereas, having enjoyed a delightful marriage of fifty‑two years, Mayor Rhoden considers it one of the greatest triumphs of his life that he was able to persuade the lovely Helen Riley Rhoden to become his wife. They are the proud parents of Andrea and Stephen, who have given their mom and dad the joy of three charming grandchildren, Abbey, Parker, and Gunner; and

Whereas, before his election as mayor, John Rhoden served on Hampton Town Council from 1982 to 1994. Following a time as mayor pro tem (1990‑1994), he took up his duties as mayor. Since 1994, he has served his town well in that honored position; and

Whereas, during his tenure as mayor, John Rhoden has seen numerous plans come to fruition, including town hall renovations, police department renovations and acquisition of equipment, the building of a new fire station and acquisition of equipment, the addition of a full‑time fireman, and three phases of the Lee Avenue Streetscape Project. He also secured and managed multiple CDBG grant projects, as well as the Brownfield grant for the purpose of cleaning up the former SDS site. The Hampton Museum and Visitors’ Center, lighting at the Lightsey Park Walking Trail, the Native American Nature Trail at Sanders’ Branch, town support during the Hampton County Watermelon Festival, the SCMIT Safety Awards, and Exchange Park development all prospered under his leadership; and

Whereas, his length of service stands as a testament to his devotion to the citizens of Hampton and to the betterment and enhancement of quality of life for all in the area. He works diligently to bring job diversity and ensure recreational improvements and projects and does an outstanding job, even when faced with many challenges. Loyalty, hard work, and perseverance have been his watchwords throughout his years of service; and

Whereas, John Rhoden believes strongly in personal involvement with his community, and his convictions have led him to serve that community in several capacities, in addition to his duties as mayor. A member of First Baptist Church of Hampton and Evergreen Masonic Lodge 153‑Hampton, he is also past president and football and baseball coach for the Hampton Varnville Youth League. Further, he is a past president of the Hampton County Municipal Association and chairman of the board for the Lowcountry Regional Water Authority, which he was instrumental in establishing; and

Whereas, the House, appreciative of the dedication and leadership Mayor Rhoden has bestowed on this great State, and particularly on the people of Hampton, takes great pleasure in wishing him all the best as he continues serving his beloved town. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, salute John B. Rhoden, Jr., mayor of the town of Hampton, who, having served the public with distinction for more than thirty-six years, is worthy of deep appreciation for his decades of committed service and best wishes for much continued success in the years to come.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mayor John B. Rhoden, Jr.

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