**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR GERALD W. “JERRY” STOUDEMIRE UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RECENT RETIREMENT AS A FIREFIGHTER WITH THE LITTLE MOUNTAIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, TO THANK HIM FOR HIS FIFTY‑TWO YEARS OF SELFLESS SERVICE, AND TO WISH HIM MUCH SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, for more than half a century, the Little Mountain Volunteer Fire Department and the citizens of Newberry County enjoyed the benefit of the dedication, experience, and leadership of Gerald W. “Jerry” Stoudemire, volunteer firefighter, who retired from his post on January 1, 2017, after a distinguished career in public safety; and

Whereas, Jerry Stoudemire joined the Little Mountain Volunteer Fire Department. The date was September 23, 1964, immediately after his eighteenth birthday. In the more than fifty‑two years since that time and until his recent retirement, this committed firefighter served in various capacities, including twenty‑six years as chief; and

Whereas, in 1989, he was appointed by Governor Carroll Campbell to the Newberry County Board of Rural Fire Control, where he served for twelve years, two and a half of them as chairman. While serving as board chair, he was instrumental in creating the Newberry County HazMat Team; and

Whereas, Jerry Stoudemire served more than ten years as a volunteer instructor of basic training for the Newberry County Fire Service; and

Whereas, although he retired from firefighting at the beginning of 2017, he remains part of the Little Mountain Volunteer Fire Department as an honorary lifetime member; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate is grateful for the praiseworthy service Jerry Stoudemire has steadfastly given as an outstanding firefighter since 1964. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor Gerald W. “Jerry” Stoudemire upon the occasion of his recent retirement as a firefighter with the Little Mountain Volunteer Fire Department, thank him for his fifty‑two years of selfless service, and wish him much success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Gerald W. “Jerry” Stoudemire.

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