**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO WELCOME ACTOR SAMUEL E. “SAM” WRIGHT BACK TO SOUTH CAROLINA, TO THANK HIM FOR HIS SUPPORT OF THE ARTS IN HIS NATIVE CAMDEN, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, born November 20, 1946, in Camden, Samuel E. “Sam” Wright is a Tony Award‑nominated American theatre and film actor, voice actor, and singer, now retired and living in New York City; and

Whereas, Sam Wright began his Broadway career in the musical *Jesus Christ Superstar* in 1971. Later, in 1984, he was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Featured Actor in a Musical for his performance in *The Tap Dance Kid*. A second Tony Award nomination in the same category followed in 1998, this time to honor his performance as Mufasa in *The Lion King*, the Broadway adaptation of Disney’s animated classic; and

Whereas, in 1989, he was chosen to voice Sebastian the crab in *The Little Mermaid*, in which he provided vocals for the songs “Under the Sea” and “Kiss the Girl,” both nominated for an Oscar for Best Original Song. “Under the Sea” won the award, and Sam’s Disney album, *Sebastian*, is RIAA Certified Gold. He also provided voice work for Kron in the Disney CGI film *Dinosaur* in 2000; and

Whereas, among his many other artistic endeavors, Sam Wright ran his own drama school in Walden, New York, called the Hudson Valley Conservatory. His major projects involved teaching, directing, and inspiring young performers in his master company, an audition‑only class at his conservatory; and

Whereas, during the weekend of April 20‑21, 2018, Sam Wright will visit his native Camden to lend his support to the arts. As a part of that effort, on Friday, April 20, he will be celebrated at an invitation‑only reception in his honor at the Douglas Reed House, with the assistance of the Catery on Broad and its delectable culinary offerings, as well as that of various youth and teachers, who will provide entertainment; and

Whereas, in addition, he will appear at an afternoon “meet and greet” for children and their parents on Saturday, April 21, 2018, at the Fine Arts Center of Kershaw County, where he will be recognized for his impressive achievements. Among other honors, he will receive the key to the city, and South Carolina ETV will be on hand to record an interview for its popular *Palmetto Scene*. A reception will follow this event, as well, which is free and open to the public; and

Whereas, it is with great pride that the members of the General Assembly recognize the accomplishments of Sam Wright, an outstanding South Carolinian, and welcome him back to the Palmetto State. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, welcome actor Samuel E. “Sam” Wright back to South Carolina, thank him for his support of the arts in his native Camden, and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Samuel E. “Sam” Wright.

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