**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR THOMAS C. DANDRIDGE, FORMER PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER (RMC) OF ORANGEBURG & CALHOUN COUNTIES, TO COMMEND HIM FOR TWENTY‑FOUR YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO RMC AS A HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION PROFESSIONAL, AND TO OFFER BEST WISHES AS HE TAKES UP NEW CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives has learned that Thomas C. Dandridge, former president and CEO of the Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg & Calhoun Counties, has left the RMC to pursue other opportunities after nearly a quarter century of service to that institution; and

Whereas, Tom Dandridge has served as a healthcare administration professional for many years. In preparation for his career, in 1972 he earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Randolph Macon College in Virginia, followed by a master’s degree in healthcare administration from Virginia Commonwealth University (1974); and

Whereas, he initiated his work in healthcare administration at the University of Virginia Medical Center as assistant hospital director, after which he began work for Hospital Corporation of America, serving as chief operating officer at Fairview Park Hospital in Dublin, Georgia. In 1983, Tom Dandridge accepted a post with Quorum Health Resources as chief executive officer for Fish Memorial Hospital in Deland, Florida, and later a post as chief operating officer and associate hospital director for the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. He served as president and CEO of the RMC from 1993 to 2017; and

Whereas, during his tenure at the RMC, a 286‑bed, county‑owned hospital generating $225 million in revenue annually and employing 1,350 staff members, Tom Dandridge’s achievements were extensive. They include increasing the fund balance from $43 million to $90 million; instituting an effective physician‑recruitment program that increased the medical staff by forty percent; developing new services, including off‑campus rehabilitation, rural health clinics, and home health care; and rekindling a dormant foundation that raised over $8 million in ten years; and

Whereas, further, he led in the development of the Women’s Breast Health Center and Bariatric Surgery Center, in the building of the 16,000‑square‑foot Dialysis Access Institute, and in doubling the size of the Cancer Center. He also executed clinical affiliation with the Medical University of South Carolina and oversaw the development of the largest Wound Care Center in the State, among numerous other accomplishments. In appreciation, Tom was named the *Times and Democrat* Person of the Year for 2012 and the Lewis W. Blackman Patient Safety Champion in 2016; and

Whereas, active in various professional organizations, he is a fellow of the American College of Health Care Executives and served as chairman of the Palmetto Hospital Trust Services Finance & Audit Committee (2012‑2017). In the community, he is a member of the Orangeburg County Chamber Board and Orangeburg Rotary Club, where he has been named a Paul Harris Fellow twice; and

Whereas, grateful for the legacy of consistent commitment and excellence Tom Dandridge has bestowed on the citizens of South Carolina, particularly those of Orangeburg County, the House of Representatives takes great pleasure in wishing him well in all his future endeavors. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor Thomas C. Dandridge, former president and CEO of the Regional Medical Center (RMC) of Orangeburg & Calhoun Counties, commend him for twenty‑four years of distinguished service to RMC as a healthcare administration professional, and offer best wishes as he takes up new challenges and opportunities in the days ahead.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Thomas C. Dandridge.

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