**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE BERNICE G. SCOTT ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM THE RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL, THANKING HER FOR HER DEDICATION TO THE PEOPLE OF RICHLAND COUNTY, AND WISHING HER WELL IN ALL OF HER FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, the Honorable Bernice G. Scott grew up as the seventh of eleven children on a family farm and became the first African‑American to chair Richland County Council. She also was one of the first African‑Americans elected to the council under the single‑member district plan, having first been chosen to serve in 1988; and

Whereas, throughout her career as a public servant, Ms. Scott has consistently worked across racial, party, and geographic lines to improve the lives of all residents of Richland County; and

Whereas, Ms. Scott has also held numerous positions which include Richland County Ombudsman and Director of Community Relations during the administration of former Governor Jim Hodges. Currently, she is employed as the Director of Public and Human Affairs for the Columbia law firm of Austin, Lewis and Rogers; and

Whereas, Ms. Scott graduated with honors from Midlands Technical College with an associate degree in human services and mental health; she also studied sociology at the University of South Carolina; and

Whereas, a brief list of her nearly countless civic contributions, honors, and awards include the following: Girl Scout troop leader; chief architect of the Lower Richland Swamp Festival, an event that honors the Congaree National Park; named 2008 Local Official of the Year by the South Carolina Parks and Recreation Association; and induction into Who’s Who of American Women; and

Whereas, she has been instrumental in keeping the health center open in the Lower Richland area which was renamed in her honor in 2004. She has also worked tirelessly to implement the master drainage plan in Gadsden and Eastover, to obtain sewer service in the Arthurwood/Little Camden/Taylors area of Richland County, and to obtain fire protection in the rural area of the county; and

Whereas, she is married to Deacon Thomas Gilmore and has two children and four grandchildren. She is also a member and deaconess of Mount Nebo Baptist Church in Richland County; and

Whereas, Ms. Scott’s decision to leave the Richland County Council will leave an indelible void in county government that cannot be filled. Her genuine concern for all citizens and her passion for public service shall be missed; and

Whereas, it is fitting and proper for the members of the General Assembly to recognize the great accomplishments of this daughter of South Carolina on the occasion of her retirement from public office. Now, therefore,

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

That the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, congratulates the Honorable Bernice G. Scott on the occasion of her retirement from the Richland County Council, thanks her for her dedication to the people of Richland County, and wishes her well in all of her future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Councilwoman Bernice G. Scott.

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